Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch

Subj: **Re: Fitch house**
Date: 3/10/2009 9:51:41 AM US Eastern Standard Time
From: cawuepper@yahoo.com
To: WFitch5413@aol.com

Betty
How sad. I guess I would rather it had been torn down. I emailed the rest of my family the news. Keep in touch.....and thanks.

Charlotte Wuepper
4221 Landings Lane
St. Joseph, Michigan
49085
269-429-7757

--- On Fri, 3/6/09, WFitch5413@aol.com <WFitch5413@aol.com> wrote:

> From: WFitch5413@aol.com <WFitch5413@aol.com>
> Subject: Fitch house
> To: cawuepper@yahoo.com
> Date: Friday, March 6, 2009, 4:33 PM
> Hello Charlotte,
>
> Sorry to have to say that the Fitch house is way, way
> beyond repair. We had
> gone to look at it a year or so ago and some kids,
> probably, were having
> parties there. The windows and frames are all broken and
> huge holes are in the
> roof. Glass all over the floors and holes knocked in the
> walls. The cost
> to ever repair it would be too great. I was just sick
> over the way it
> looked, but being out in the country, even if we could find
> someone who would work
> on it.....probably it would not be safe. The
> folks who were partying
> there just wrecked the whole place. I brought back a
> couple of boards that
> had been knocked loose but can't see that anything can
> be done with it at this
> point. Have not been back since. We were hoping that we
> could get some of
> our local builders to work on it, but only if it could be
> moved. And we
> were told that it would be impossible to move it to
> Huntertown. So nothing
> much we can do about it now.

Sub: Re: Filch house
Date: 3/10/2009 9:51:47 AM US Eastern Standard Time
From: cawueppar@yahoo.com
To: WFilch5413@aol.com

Betty
How sad. I guess I would rather it had been torn down. I emailed the rest of my family the news. Keep in touch.....and thanks.

Charlotte Wueppar
4221 Landings Lane
St. Joseph, Michigan
49085
269-429-7757

-- On Fri, 3/6/09, WFilch5413@aol.com <WFilch5413@aol.com> wrote:

> From: WFilch5413@aol.com <WFilch5413@aol.com>
> Subject: Filch house
> To: cawueppar@yahoo.com
> Date: Friday, March 6, 2009, 4:33 PM
> Hello Charlotte,
>
> Sorry to have to say that the Filch house is way, way
> beyond repair. We had
> gone to look at it a year or so ago and some kids,
> probably, were having
> parties there. The windows and frames are all broken and
> huge holes are in the
> roof. Glass all over the floors and holes knocked in the
> walls. The cost
> to ever repair it would be too great. I was just sick
> over the way it
> looked, but being out in the country, even if we could find
> someone who would work
> on it,.....probably it would not be safe. The
> folks who were partying
> there just wrecked the whole place. I brought back a
> couple of boards that
> had been knocked loose but can't see that anything can
> be done with it at this
> point. Have not been back since. We were hoping that we
> could get some of
> our local builders to work on it, but only if it could be
> moved. And we
> were told that it would be impossible to move it to
> Huntington. So nothing
> much we can do about it now.

> All the great memories that the family had, I guess are
> just
> that.....memories.
>
> We went into the basement and I showed the girls the logs
> that were put in
> for joists. It was even too late for any good pictures.
> I wish we had gone a
> year earlier and we might have been able to save it in
> pictures anyway.
> We were just hoping that it could be moved. We expected
> wear and tear from
> the weather, but not vandalism by kids. There was even a
> mattress in one of
> the upstairs rooms.
>
> So our hopes were dashed. We still are looking for a
> place for our
> Historical Society. But that will probably be a long time
> in the future. Hope all
> is well with your family. Betty
>
>
> **********Need a job? Find employment help in your
> area.
> (http://yellowpages.aol.com/search?
query=employment_agencies&ncid=emlcntusyelp00000005)

Dear Betty
I Was so glad to hear from you about the Fitch House but sorry that the news is so bad.. It is so far from the road that the damage is not visible to us but we always look back there and I got out my Fitch stuff and renewed a lot of the history. If you are able to find a place for Your Historical Society, do let me know. We went to that event at the school when they had the play and displayed items. I have some blanks in my collection I would like to fill in.
Thanks for keeping us informed.
Jo Fitch

FITCH BOOK II **NATHANIEL AND SARAH**

Maps of Perry Township
- DeKalb County
- Carrol County
- Allen County
- Noble County
- Butler Township

Fitch biographies from Allen County History

Perry Township History

Eel River Township History

Eel River Map

More Perry Township bios and history

1850 Census

Group Sheets

Photos, Nathaniel's house, Sarah & Cow

Maps, Obits & photos

Pages and photos from first Fitch Newsletter about Nathaniel and Sarah

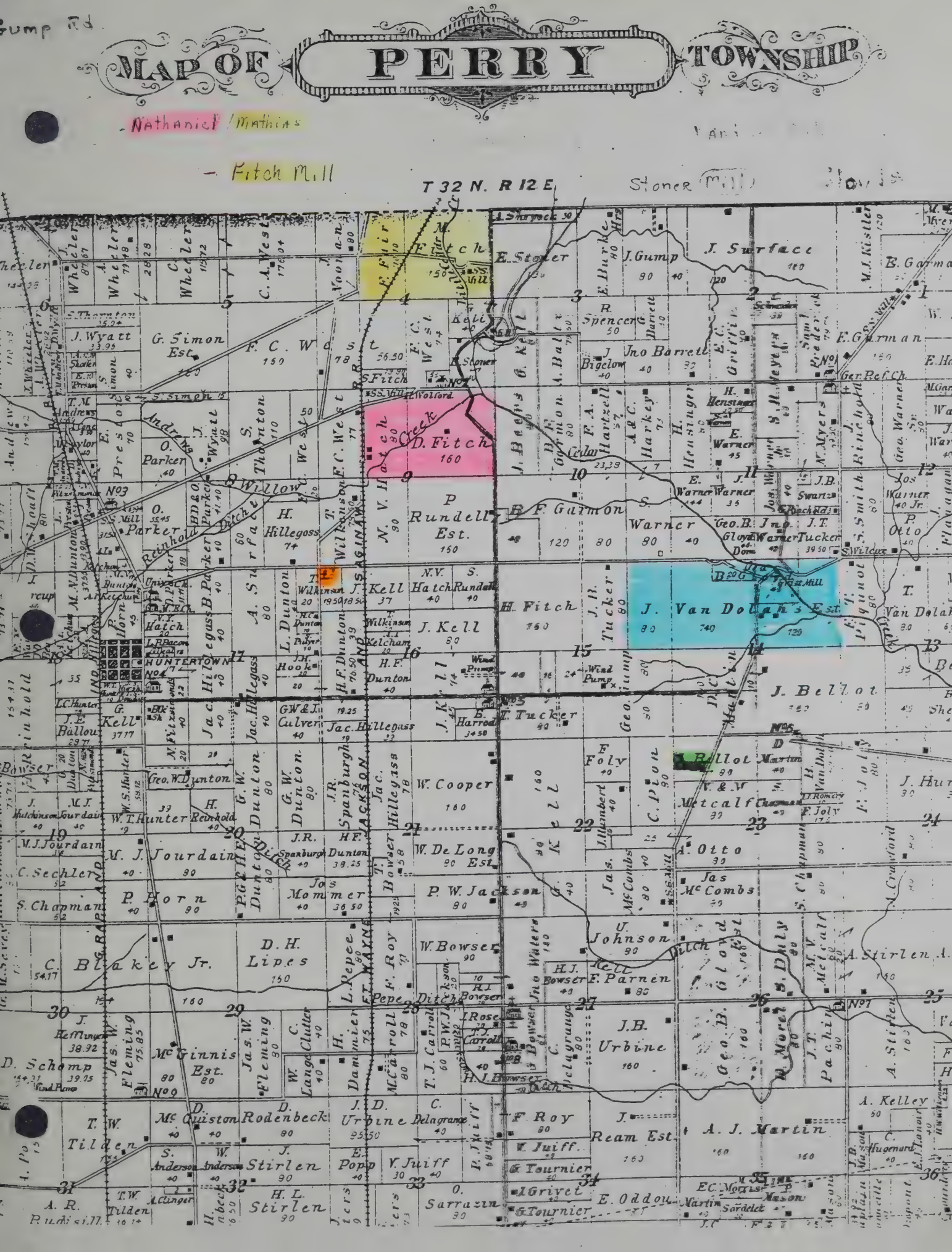
Perry Cemetery articles and photos

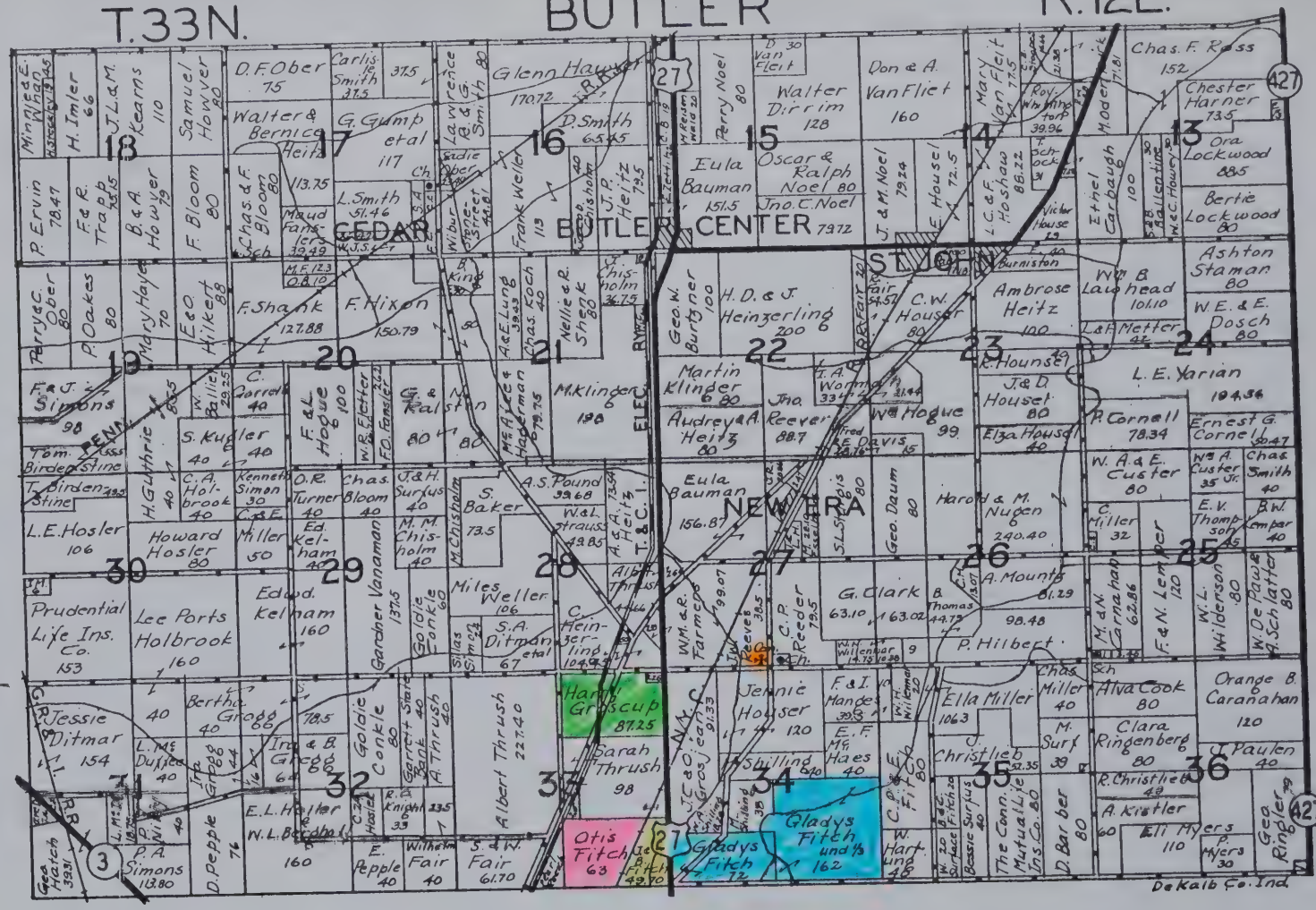
Some Cedar Chapel Cemetery photos about Fitches Old and New

Partial Cemetery Inscription list

Allen County Mill Booklet in pocket

Betty Fitch
14615 Auburn Rd
Ft. Wayne, Indiana


MAP OF PERRY TOWNSHIP
T 32 N. R 12 E
Nathaniel Mathias
Fitch Mill
Stoner Mill
E. Stoner
J. Gump
J. Surface
M. Fitch
D. Fitch
F. C. West
J. Van Dolahs Est.
J. Bellot
H. Fitch
P. Rundell Est.
W. Cooper
W. De Long Est.
P. W. Jackson
D. H. Lipes
C. Blakey Jr.
J. B. Urbine
A. J. Martin
Ream Est.
T. W. Tilden
McGinnis Est.
Rodenbeck
Stirlen
Sarrazin
E. Oddou
Martin
Mason
Hunterstown
Willow Creek
Andrews Ditch
Reinhold Ditch
Grabb and Dunton Ditch
Pepee Ditch
Fitch Ditch
Jackson and Kaine Ditch



My dad's (Guy Brown) Garrett Farm

John Fitch

Cedar Chapel Cemetary

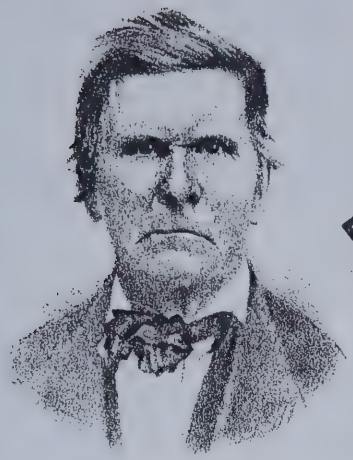
DeKalb County

MAP OF PERRY TOWNSHIP

T 32 N. R 12 E.



REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF OLD SETTLERS PERRY, TP.



GEORGE GREENWELL.
(DECEASED.)



A. C. Griffin



GEORGE B. GLOYD.
(DECEASED.)

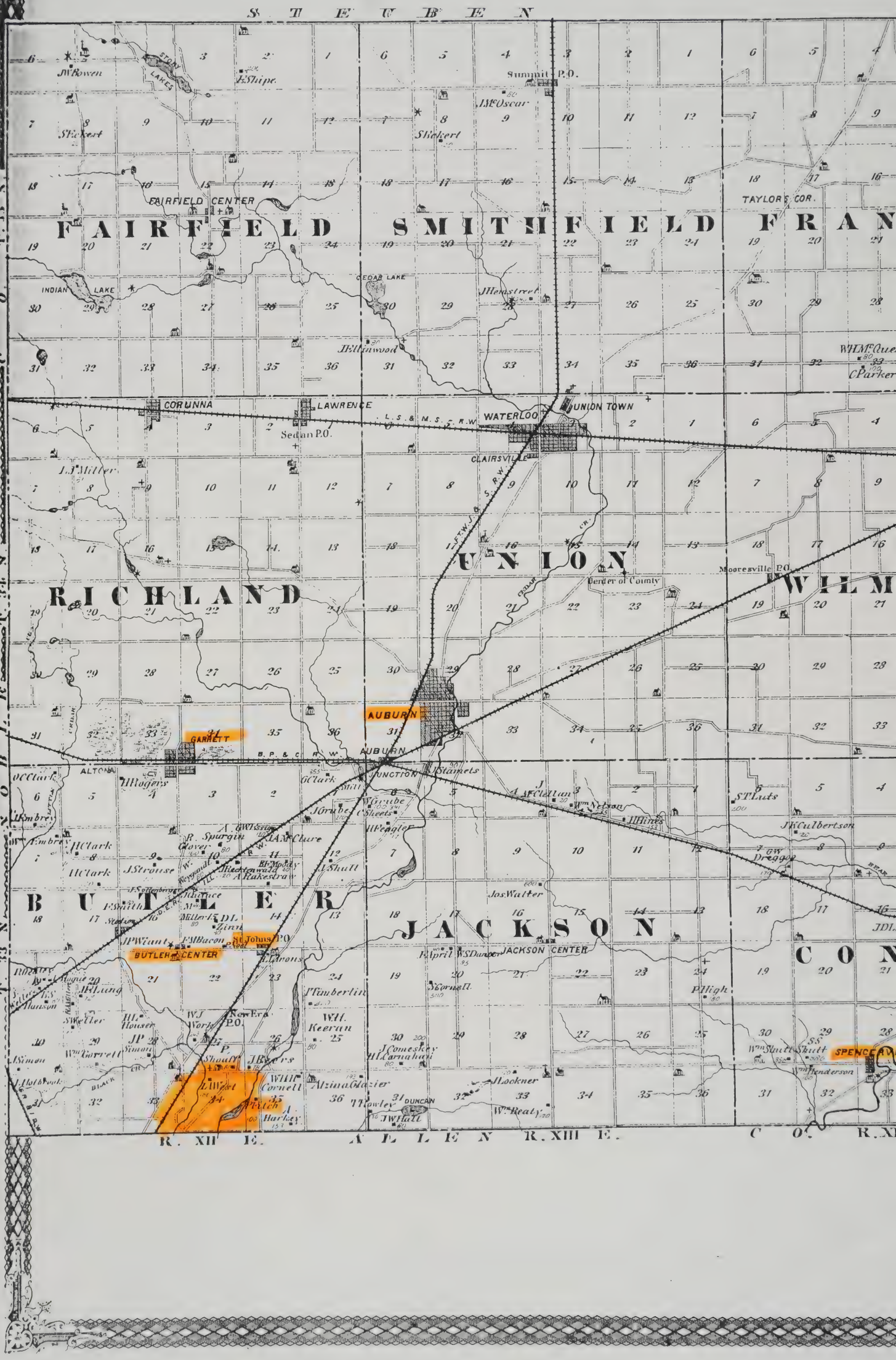


T. M. ANDREWS.



VACHEL C. METCALF.

MAP OF DE KALB



MAP OF CARROLL COUNTY.



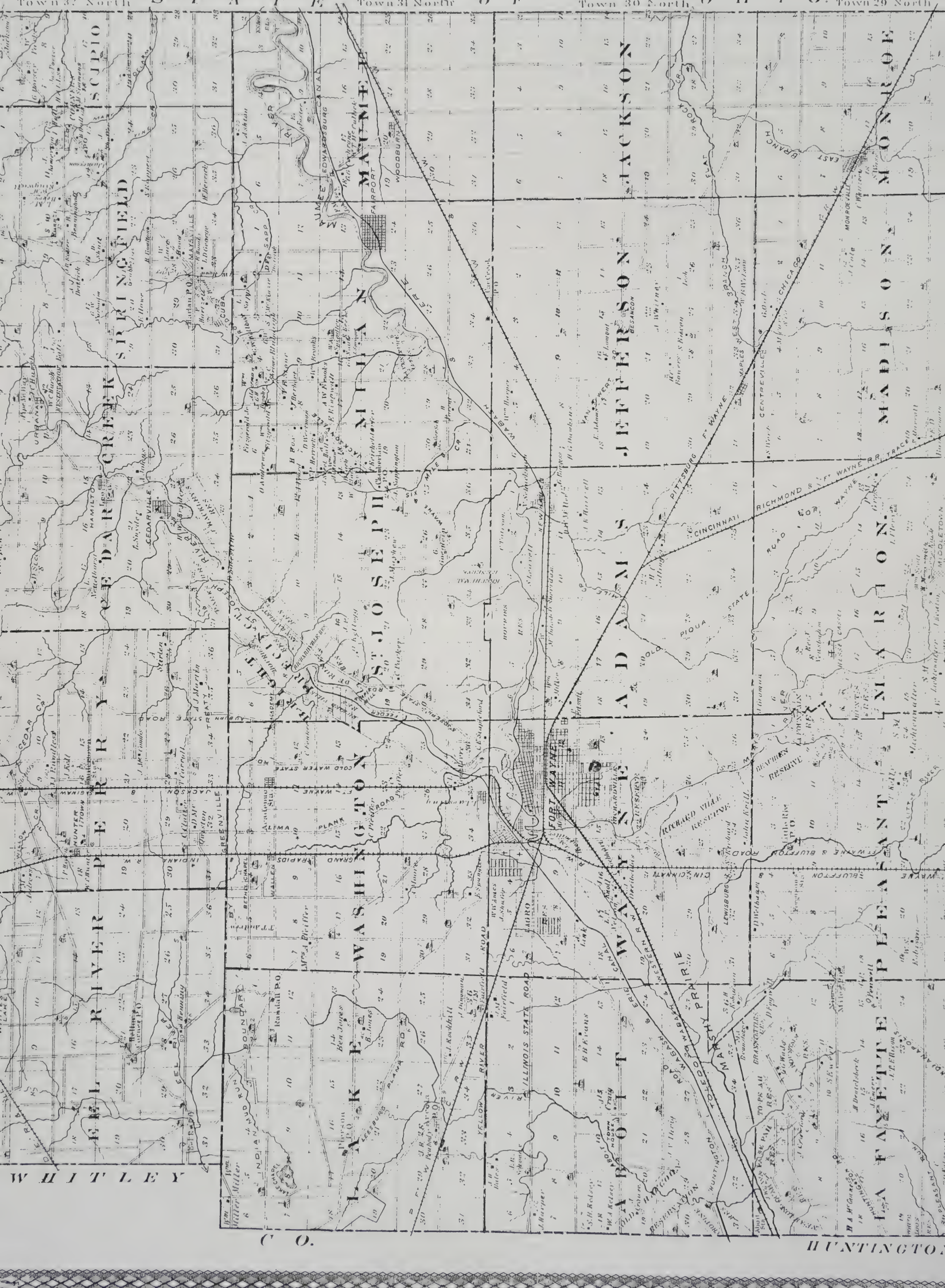
MAP OF DE KALB

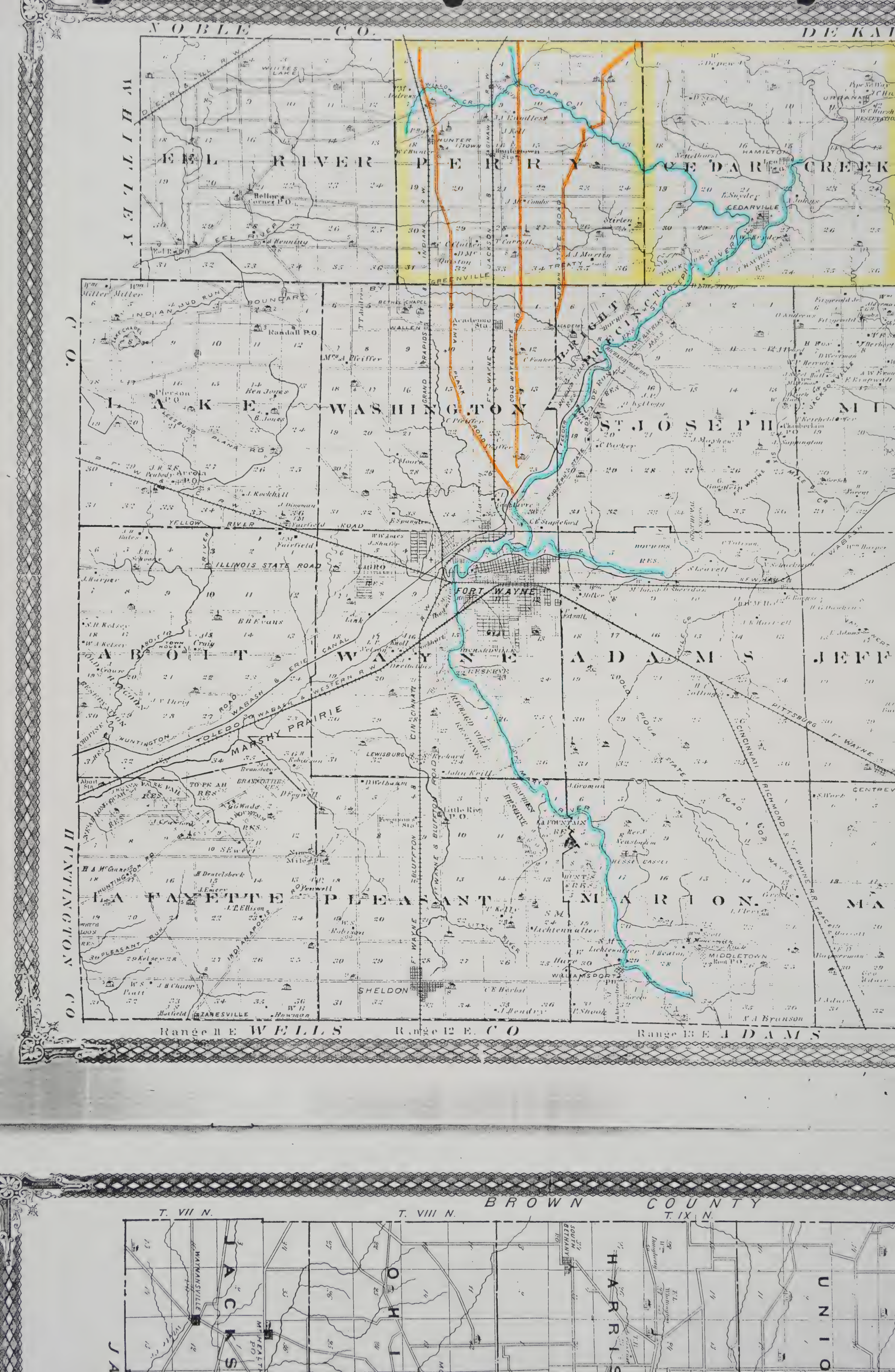


MAP OF ALLEN COUNTY.

STATE OF OHIO.

Town 32 North — Town 31 North — Town 30 North — Town 29 North




NOBLE CO.
DE KA
WHITLEY CO.
EEL RIVER
PERRY
CEDAR CREEK
LAKE
WASHINGTON
ST. JOSEPH
ALLEN CO.
WAYNE
ADAMS
JEFF
ABOIT
MARSHY PRAIRIE
LAFAYETTE
PLEASANT
MARION.
MA
HUNTINGTON CO.
WELLS CO.
ADAMS
Range 11 E.
Range 12 E.
Range 13 E.
FORT WAYNE
GREENVILLE
CEDARVILLE
ARCOLA
LAUREL
LEWISBURG
SHELDON
WILLIAMSPORT
MIDDLETOWN
Randall P.O.
Little Riv P.O.
Penwell
Hunter
Hamilton
Bellers Corner P.O.
Pierson P.O.
Chamberlain P.O.
TOLEDO, WABASH & WESTERN R.W.
WABASH & ERIE CANAL
ILLINOIS STATE ROAD
TREATY
COLD WATER STATE ROAD
FT. WAYNE & BLUFFTON ROAD
CINCINNATI, RICHMOND & FT. WAYNE R.R.
PITTSBURG, FT. WAYNE & CHICAGO R.R.
INDIAN BOUNDARY
YELLOW RIVER
EEL RIVER
MUD RUN
CEDAR CR.
HUNTER CR.
SPY RUN CR.
ST. MARYS RIVER
ST. JOSEPH RIVER
MAUMEE RIVER
FOUNTAIN
RESERVE
BRANDYBERRY
TOWN HOUSE
FALSE PAR
TO PE AH
BROWN COUNTY
T. VII N.
T. VIII N.
T. IX N.
JACKSON
HARRISON
UNION
WABASHVILLE
MT. PLEASANT
GOSHEN
ETHANIM

LA GRANGE CO.

PULASKI CO.

STARKE CO.

JASPER COUNTY

PORTER CO.

LAKE CO.

TOWN 30 NORTH.

TOWN 29 NORTH.

TOWN 28 NORTH.

Town 34 KOSCIUSKO CO.

Town 35 ELKHART CO.

Town 33 KOSCIUSKO CO.

Range 8 E. 2nd P. M.

Range 9E.

Range 10 E.

Range 11 E.

PERRY

ELKHART

ORANGE

WAYNE

SPARTA

YORK

JEFFERSON

ALLEN

WASHINGTON

NOBLE

GREEN

SWAN

WHITLEY

DE KALB CO.

ALLEN CO.

HAWVILLE

WOODBURN

Tamarack L.

Sanford L.

ROME CITY

Reservoir

Waldron L.

Wible L.

SPRINGFIELD

LIGONIER

WAWAKA

Long L.

Round L.

ROCHESTER

BRIMFIELD

KENDALLVILLE

Bixler L.

Diamond Lake

Engle L.

Sackrider L.

Eagle L.

Reservation Line

County Asylum

CROMWELL

LISBON

ALBION

Skinner L.

Indian Village

Long Lakes

Port Mitchell

Mill Pond

ST MARYS

AVILLA

Reservation Line

WOLF LAKE

Muncie Lakes

BEAR LAKE

Smalley L.

SWAN

Green Center

Blue River

NOBLESVILLE

GRAND RAPIS CROSSING

La Otto

Loon L.

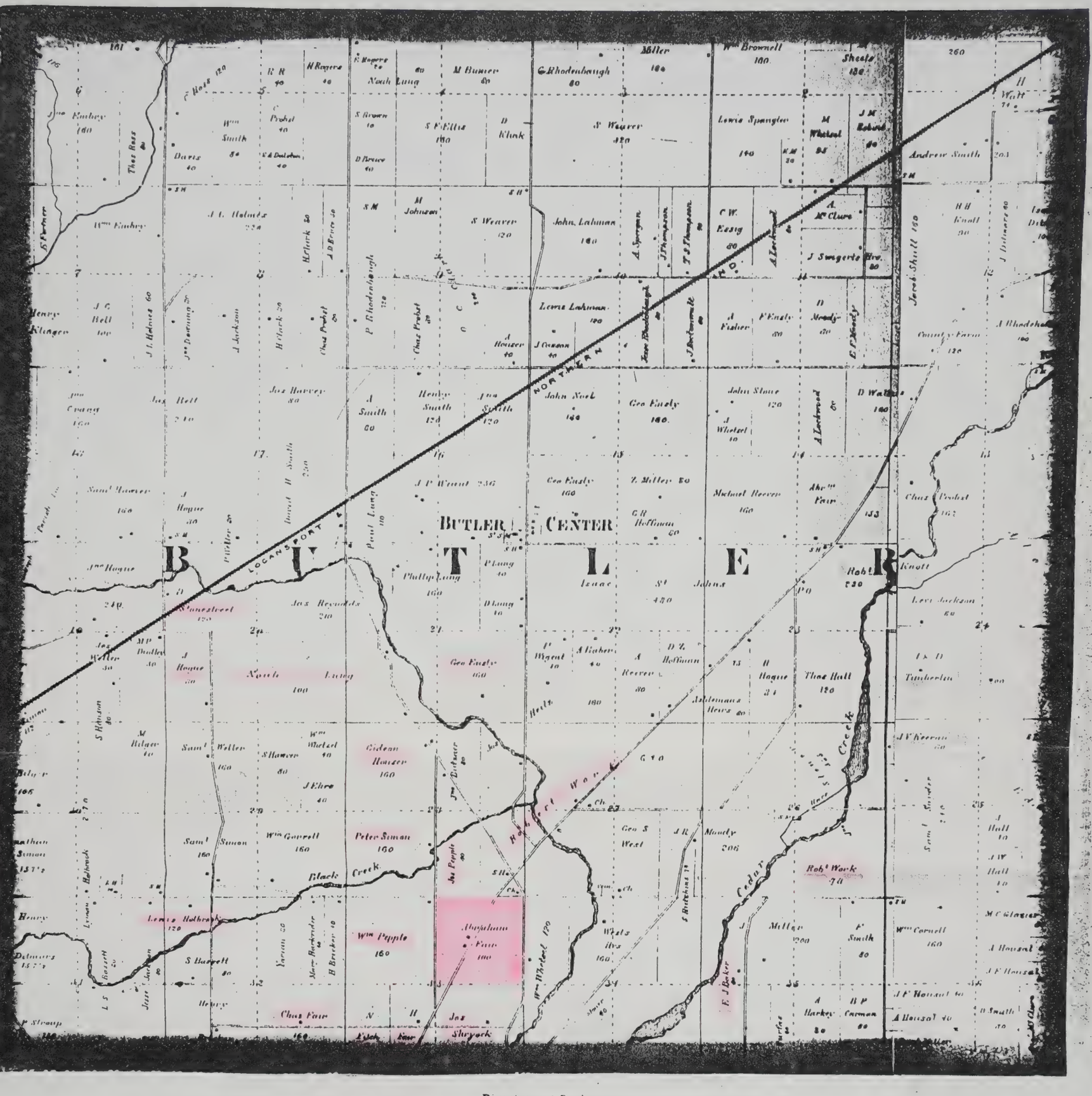
ZIPPECANOE LAKE

ZIPPECANOE RIVER

POTTERS STA.

1863

Butler Township


BUTLER CENTER
LOGANSPORT
NORTHERN
Black Creek
Cedar Creek
Abraham Fair 10a
Chas Fair
Shryock
Peter Simon 160
Wm Pepple 160
Gideon Houser 160
Lewis Holbrook 120
Geo Eusly 160
Geo Eusly 160
John Lahman 160
Lewis Lahman 120
John Noel 160
Geo Eusly 160
Wm Brownell 160
Sheets 160
Lewis Spangler 160
Andrew Smith 204
Thos Hall 120
Rob't Work 70
Wm Cornell 160
Wm Pepple 160
Wm Whetsel 120
Wm Gorrell 160
Sam'l Weller 160
Sam'l Simon 160
Jno Hague 80
Jno Hague 30
Jno Hague 34
Jno Hague 240
Jno Craig 160
Jno Bell 240
Jno Harvey 80
Jno Reynolds 240
Jno Baker 80
Jno Pepple 80
Jno Shryock 160
Jno Houser 40
Jno Ehre 40
Jno Smith 120
Jno Smith 120
Jno Smith 60
Jno Smith 240
Jno Stone 120
Jno Hoffman 60
Jno Hoffman 60
Jno Hoffman 60

- Portraits from Pg 1-

Nathaniel's youngest son, David Fitch. Subsequent correspondence with the museum curator confirmed their existence, and color photographs of "the David portraits" were secured for the family records.

We know nothing of the history of David's portraits, but Margie Ozanne's note with Jennie's portraits says, "My mother always hung these portraits of Nathaniel and Sarah in her home the first thing each time she moved. My father was a preacher, and they moved frequently."

The two portraits of Nathaniel were prepared from the same negative, but the charcoal treatment of his clothes is different in each. The portraits of Sarah are each unique.

Thanks to a professional photographer who donated his time, perfect reproductions of "Jennie's" Nathaniel and Sarah portraits are available to the family. Shot in color so that the charcoal enhanced photographs show their age, the copies will appear identical to the originals if framed under glass.

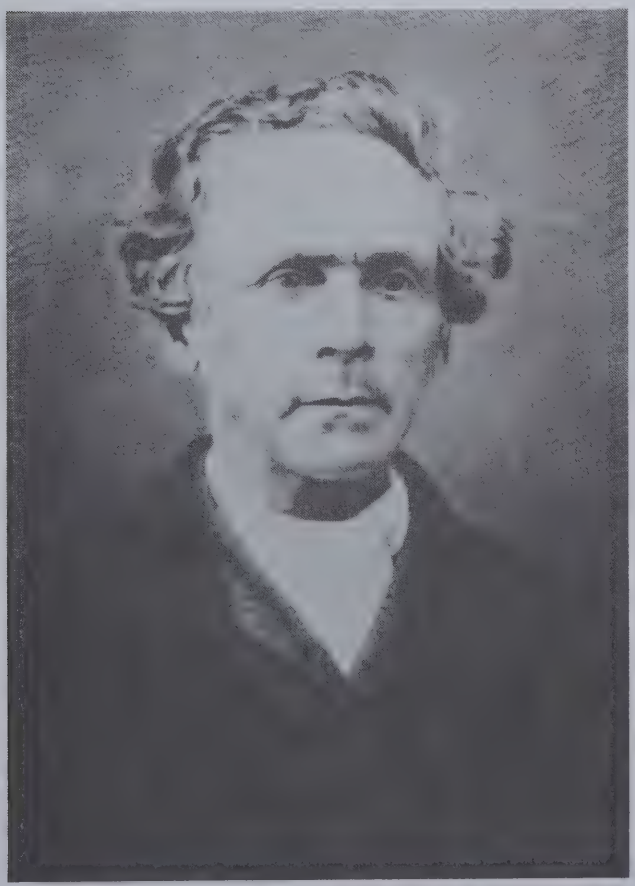
Jennie's original portraits, each of which measures about 14" by 17", have been archivally framed in hand-carved, gold leafed, period frames made of Indiana basswood and presently hang in the living room of the family historian's 1830's home.

Color-matched prints of "Jennie's" portraits are available from the family historian at cost, including shipping.

Prices	5x7	8x10	11x14
1st Print (either N or S)	$7.00	$11.00	$20.00
Add'l Prints of Either	$ 4.00	$ 7.00	$15.00
E.g. Both N & S	$11.00	$18.00	$35.00



Sarah DeLong Fitch - "Jennie's Portrait"



Nathaniel Fitch - "David's Portrait"



Sarah DeLong Fitch - "David's Portrait"

Who's Who in the Family

Keeping track of all our Fitch kin now requires a computer, so it is not possible to publish a complete list in a newsletter. However, it might be helpful in appreciating the stories and photos to know a bit more about the family lineage. If you don't know from which of Nathaniel's children you are descended, ask a parent or grandparent or call the family historian.

Descendants of Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch

	Born	Died	Descendant Surnames
Perry Fitch	1/6/1842	4/14/1900	Fitch, Pendleton, Lawrence,Evans,Getty,Head,Richards Sanford, Click, Hamilton, Holocher, Dawson, Stetler, Dewitt, Belanger, Hula, Kistler, Owen, Ragan, Dennie, Wright, Glowaty, Gay, Akers, McCarthy, Burzloff, Walberry, Patton, Rucker, Wyatt, More, Smith, Ewing, Gladbach
Mathias Fitch (Si/Sci)	1/16/1843	12/10/1923	Fitch, Harnett, Bunker, Coen, Lyon, Balch, Blackburn, Caple, Colvin, Lawson, Culbertson, Fulk, Jones, Lortie Wies, Lockwood, Romans, Ober, Furlough, Kell, Davis Honeick, Brice, Sonderoth, Maurer, Samaniego, Seeger Dillman, Jokay, Monroe, Bailey, DeBolt, Lyons, Gulick Knowles, Barnes, Arnold, Gray, Bushur, Leaycraft, Neally
Mary Jane Fitch (Jennie)	10/15/1844	3/17/1925	Beers, Ozanne, Pullella, Lyon, Wille, Cassell, Spangler Peterson, Sherick, Harrison, Farrell, Polícht, Tegarden, Wheeler-Ozanne, Gierlich, Johnston, Weber, Adams, Flickinger, Healey, Kephart, Hunt
Charles Fitch	3/29/1846	8/21/1925	Fitch, Harvey, Hart, Chamerlain, Shirley, Shirk, Nobis Baden, Bowling, Pearson, Milon, Kiernan, Vilankulu, Durkee, Anderson
Nancy Fitch	3/16/1848	9/ 1/1848	None
Amos Fitch (Ame)	6/11/1849	11/ 9/1935	Fitch, Houser, Kirbach, Wagner, Dove, Noll, Wert
Fitelia Fitch (Fi)	4/10/1851	1/ 8/1935	Gloyd, Pusey, Moyer, Emenhiser, Liggett, Brown, Walker, Hoot, Moudy, Stoller, McDaniel, Leach, Vandeloop, Hardwick, Cumberland
Francelia Fitch (Frank)	4/10/1851	12/29/1937	Fair, Bressler, Gartner, Macon, White, Cherene, Horn, Christie, Belew, Eric, Hurtig, Scully, Sleeper, Hulsizer, Wall
Harvey Fitch (Harve)	7/15/1853	9/13/1948	Fitch, Hursh, McComb, Freck, Huber, Kittaka, Sloffer, Tom, Kelham, Walters, Gatza, Thrush, Cox, Mossberger, Yarde, Yingling, Degitz, Brown, Ropp, Zirkle, Green, Inman, Miller, Vandermeer, Smith, Lucas, Gaff, McCrea, Geller, Downs, Zorger, Enyeart, Russell
Sarah E. Fitch (Sade)	3/29/1855	8/ 4/1958	Stratton, Jeschke, Bowlby, Schafer, Newell, Radspieler, MacInnes, Shryer, Boast, Boyle, Nobles
Allen Fitch	2/21/1857	12/19/1952	None
Ida A. Fitch	10/25/1858	12/14/1945	None (married Mason)
Emeline (Emma)	2/ 1/1861	8/28/1949	None (married Hartzell)
John E. Fitch	2/14/1864	5/19/1870	None
David N. Fitch	2/13/1865	4/ 4/1950	Fitch, Wuepper, Deck, Davis, Birdsall, Mann, Shaffer, Silha, Reimann, Hoza, Hawver, Brogren, Scofield, Florsheim, Le Vay, Richardson

FROM AN ALLEN COUNTY HISTORY in the Fort Wayne Library

Nathaniel Fitch, an unmarried man, came from Pennsylvania in the year 1833, and after clearing a farm married Sarah DeLong and reared a large family, several of whom are now living in the township. He was a man of great natural ability, and was highly esteemed by his neighbors. He was a blacksmith and conducted that trade in connection with farming. A long life of labors and industry brought him a rich return and made him possesser of a fine fortune. He remained in the township until his death in January 1877.

First Blacksmith – Nathaniel Fitch, in 1837, started the fires of his forge and later in the same year James Vandergrift opened a shop in another part of the township. Both were engaged in the manufacture of plowshares and steel traps.

First Marriage – In 1840 Nathaniel Fitch and Miss Sarah DeLong were married in the residence of the brides parents. (This is probably wrong, as the home of her parents was in Miami County, Ohio, and her father was dead at the time of the marriage. He died ~~in~~ 1836. The only George DeLong in this county and township was George DeLong who was buried in Cedar Chapel Cemetery and was an early pioneer to this county. George may have been Sarah's brother, but one genealogy puts him as a cousin, the son of Joseph DeLong who was the brother of her father, George DeLong.)

Perry Center Seminary

In 1856, Nathaniel Fitch, Jacob Kell, and George Gloyd, incorporated the seminary known by this name. They were moved by laudable desire to establish in this township a first-class institution of learning and with that end in view erected near the center of the township a large ~~frame~~ building; and in the winter of that year, secured the services of Prof. T. W. Tilden, as teacher. In 1860, it was divided into ~~three departments or grades~~ and Prof. ~~Til~~den retained as principal with two able assistants in the other grades. Its pupils came from Noble, DeKalb, Allen, LaGrange, and ~~other counties~~ in the state. The course was academic, including the languages, higher mathematics, philosophy, astronomy, etc. Among the pupils - Charles Fitch, a resident of the same state is a deputy sheriff, Jerome Gloyd, trustee of Perry Township. Miss Jennie Fitch, Professer of Latin and Greek at Logansport, Indiana.

Nat'l Fitch from "Valley of the Upper Maumee" written around 1885

Nathaniel Fitch (deceased), one of the old settlers of Allen County, was a native of Pennsylvania, born July 9, 1806, son of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch. In 1832 he became a settler in Allen County. He was a blacksmith, gunsmith, and locksmith, having learned the trade without instruction. This he followed in Pennsylvania and continued the work after arriving here. He made all the iron for the canal locks from the Wabash to Fort Wayne. Circumstances denied him educational privileges, but he was intelligent and shrewd. June 4, 1840, he was united in marriage with Sarah, daughter of George and Elizabeth DeLong. Her grandfather, George Statler, was a soldier of 1812. This union was blessed with fifteen children, of whom thirteen are now living: Perry, Mathias, Jane, Charles, Amos, Francelia, Fidelia, Harvey, Sarah E., Allen, Ida A., Emeline and David. Mrs. Fitch, though born in 1818, is still enjoying life. She is a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Fitch being very poor, had only 15 cents in his pocket when he started from Pennsylvania to Indiana, and consequently made the journey on foot. Beginning under such circumstances, his success was very remarkable. He came to own 2,300 acres of land, and raised a large family in comfortable circumstances. As might be expected, his life was full of adventures. At one time, while at work in his shop, he was compelled to put off an Indian who had a gun to mend, which so enraged the redskin that he sprang at him with a draw knife, and probably would have been hurt with the shovel that Mr. Fitch was sharpening had not Chief Chopine interfered. Before he came to Indiana he had been accidently shot in the leg while on a wolf hunt. Again, when crossing Lake Erie on a side-wheel steamer, they were caught in a gale, and the shaft becoming disabled, they were going to ruin, and were only saved by breaking one of the shafts.

David N. Fitch, the youngest son of Nathaniel Fitch, now lives on the old homestead farm with his aged mother. He received a good common school education and attended college at Fort Wayne for two years. In 1887 he was united in marriage with Emma B., daughter of James C. and Nancy (Kidd) Stirlen. They have one child, James B., born January 26, 1888. Mrs. Fitch was born November 2, 1866. She is member of the Lutheran Church. Mr. Fitch is a member of the Regulators of Allen County. As a young man he stands high in the estimation of all who know him.

Perry Fitch was born January 6, 1842, in the old log house built by his father in an early day, where he grew to manhood. He received a common school education. In 1864 he was united in marriage with Sarah E., daughter of George B. and Magdelena Gloyd. This union was blessed with twelve children, eight now living: William S., Oliver J., George B., Bert C., Kelsie D., Frank E., Claude P., and Pearl M. Mrs. Fitch was born April 9, 1846. She is a member of the old school Baptist Church. Mr. Fitch is a resident of DeKalb County, having removed there in 1864, where he has served his township twelve years as Justice of the Peace. He has a valuable farm of 140 acres, where he lives in a two-story brick dwelling and a good barn, and 80 acres in Union Township, DeKalb County. He is one of the leading citizens of the county, and respected by all. Mr. Fitch is a member of the Masonic order.

Matthias Fitch, the second son of Nathaniel, was born January 16, 1843. December 1, 1867, he was untied in marriage with Frances, daughter of James and Rebecca Vandolah, and this union gave them 9 children, six of whom are living: Schuyler, John B., Walter, Bessie, Altha, and Beatrice. Mrs. Fitch was born February 19, 1843. Mr. Fitch is a member of the Regulators, and was once a member of the F. & A. M. He makes a specialty of raising sheep. He has 240 acres of good land in Perry township, improved, and 200 acres in Iowa. In connection with farming, he also runs a water-powered sawmill built by his father.

Amos Fitch of DeKalb County, was born at the old homestead, June 11, 1849, and there grew to manhood, receiving a good common school education. In 1878 he was united in marriage with Nancy E. Hunter, daughter of William T. and Jane Hunter and they have two children: Gladys, born October 15, 1881, and Roland, born September 12, 1884. Mrs. Fitch was born January 22, 1849. She is a member of the Universalist Church. Mr. Fitch was a member of the Good Templars while that lodge was in existence at Huntertown. He possesses 160 acres of land given to him by his father, and upon which he has erected a two-story brick dwelling. He remained in Perry Township on the old home place until 1878 when he returned to DeKalb county and settled on the farm where he now lives.

Harvey Fitch, eighth child of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch, was married in 1880 to Etta P. Parker, daughter of Danford and Parmelia Parker, and they have had four children, three now living: Andra, Nina, and Parker. He owns 160 acres of fine farming land.

Nathaniel from ~~Griswolds~~

Nathaniel and Sarah Elizabeth DeLong Fitch, the former native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Ohio, their marriage having been solemnized in Allen County, Indiana. Nathaniel Fitch, Jr., bore the full name of his father, who was a successful agriculturist in Pennsylvania. Reared and educated in the old Keystone state, Nathaniel, Jr., was a young man when he came from Pennsylvania to Allen County, in 1832, and obtained a homestead claim of government land in Perry Township (Possible that it was in DeKalb County and not Allen. He purchased land in Allen County that was his "homestead" and where he lived the rest of his life.) His home farm was 2 and ½ miles East of the village of Huntertown. He was a blacksmith by trade and it is worthy of historic note that he forged the lock irons used on the old canal extending from Fort Wayne to the Wabash River. He reclaimed his farm from virtual wilderness and became one of the honored and influential citizens of Perry Township. His marriage to Miss Sarah E. DeLong was solemnized on June 14, 1840 (May be June 4) and they forthwith established their home on the pioneer farm in Perry Township, where Mr. Fitch also established a blacksmith shop in which he continued to do a large amount of work at his trade, being one of the pioneer exponents of this sturdy vocation within the borders of Allen County. His shop is still standing and is one of the pioneer landmarks of this part of the county. Mr. Fitch developed one of the excellent farms of the county, was active in community affairs and served for a number of years as township trustee. He was about 70 years of age at the time of his death and his widow, one of the gracious and revered pioneer women of the county, attained to the venerable age of 90 years. Mr. Fitch left the parental home when he was a lad of but 15 years*, and he bore with him in a bandana handkerchief all of his worldly possessions, except the rifle which he considered an essential part of his equipment. He made the journey from Pennsylvania to Indiana on foot and eventually became one of the largest landholders in this county, his estate at one time having 2,300 acres besides which he became owner of land in Iowa. He was one of the most vigorous and ambitious of all the pioneers of Allen County and in addition to his farming industry and his work as a blacksmith, owned and operated a sawmill near the DeKalb County line and developed also a sub-stantial wool carding business. He was especially well-known for his great pedestrian powers, and he almost invariably made trips to and from his farm to Fort Wayne on foot. The ruins of his pioneer mill, which was operated by water power, are still to be seen, and in all, he was a sterling and progressive citizen who contributed much to the furtherance of civic and material development and advancement in Allen County. He and his wife, who shared with him in the vicissitudes of pioneer life and in the prosperity of later years, her

death having occurred, September 6, 1908, became the parents of 14 children, and thus gave their full quota of hostages to fortune.

*(If Nathaniel came to Indiana in 1832, he would have been 26 years old at the time. He did leave home to go to Easton, PA, to learn blacksmithing when he was young, and might have been 15 at that time. Apparently he did not like that and ran away and just started working as a blacksmith on what little he had learned while there.)

Griswolds Pictorial History of Fort Wayne

The "Regulators" was an organization formed to rid the country of outlaws. Members were David and Matthias Fitch, and Jacob Kell.

Perry Centre Seminary, was an institution founded in 1856 by Nathaniel Fitch, Jacob Kell, and George B. Gloyd, and notwithstanding its short existence, bore strong witness to the quality of Perry Township people. It was a flourishing institution for five years, during which time it gave a start to men and women who have since made a name for themselves and the township. Among it's pupils were the Hillegass boys, Dr. S.C. Metcalf, Dr. E.G. Wheelock, Jr., the three Gloyds, Jerome, William, and Albert, the McQuistons, Dr. Dills, of Fort Wayne, Hiram Myers, and Miss Jennie Fitch, afterward professor of Greek and Latin at Logansport.

At the breaking out of the Civil War, the seminary faculty and all its adult students enlisted, which was praiseworthy and has happened to other schools with like result, namely, it was deserted and at the close of the war its scattered pupils were grown up or had found other openings. It was too late to resuscitate the once promising educational centre. The building went to decay, and is only remembered by what it has done.

B. J. Griswold - THE PICTORIAL History of Ft Wayne, IN & THE STORY of THE TOWNSHIPS of Allen Co. by Mrs. Samuel R. Taylor

PERRY TOWNSHIIP

Monarchs of all they surveyed were CHARLES WEEKS and WILLIAM CASWELLfor the first three years of their pioneership in the township of Perry. Belonging to that early group of settlers who invaded the forests of Adams township in 1823, their experience had made them bold enough to go further still and to brave the lack of human society for the pursuit of the furred and feathered denizens of Perry. Both men were famous hunters yet industrious axemen, and their farms were well-cleared. MR. CASWELL, a Canadian, was perhaps the hardier and more aggressive of the two, but the team work of these friends was excellent. They were joined in 1833 by THOMAS AND EPHRAIM H. DUNTEN, and the latter's son HORACE F., with their families. The Duntens did not allow the underbrush to lie long in their path to pioneer prosperity. Horace built the first hewn log house the summer following his arrival and EPHRIAM H. DUNTEN, JR., who came in the fall was but a few months later in building the first store room of the settlement, on a spot which is now a town lot in Huntertown. To this frame building, he brought goods from Toledo, by way of the canal as far as Fort Wayne and thence to the woodland market place by wagon, thus establishing a business which endured far beyond real pioneer days, being carried on by his sons after him.

The Lima Road was opened about the same time, and as it immediately became a popular route for travel and pioneer traffic, this same Mr. Dunten set up a temperory tavern beside it, near the future village. Guests poured in, and the geneal host found it necessary within a few years, to build a more commodious hostelry. A brick kiln, set up about this time, seems to have been the only unsuccessful venture this man ever made. He fell victim to the cholera epidemic in 1854. THOMAS DUNTEN, the uncle, left a beautiful farmhome in New York, and undertook the hardships of pioneer living in Indiana in the hope of providing equally good fortunes for each of his children. He was a generous and self-sacrificing father and neighbor, bearing his share and more of the difficulties of the first few winters. AT a time when the corn supply was so short that it became necessary to make a 7 days trip by ox-team to bring grain from settlements farther north, Mr. Dunten was the first to go, though it involved sleeping at night in the forest, as there was no other shelter by the way. His children were given the best education obtainable under the circumstances, and were capable of afterward making the most of what they received. His daughter, LUCINDA, was a pupil in a school taught by EBENEZER AYRES, claimed to be the first term taught in Perry Township. MR. DUNTEN AND WIFE were both born in Vermont. HORACE F. DUNTEN, only 20 years of age when he enteredhis first forty acres, proceeded at once to enlarge his holdings by the labor of his hands, earning $16 per month at canal work, and $10 a month when canal work closed for the winters. A quiet, steadfast and industrious citizen, his services to the community may be estimated to some extent by the circumstance that of his 10 children, 8 became teachers. THOMAS DUNTEN AND HORACE together selected the site of the cemetery near Huntertown. Toward the end of HORACE DUNTEN'S life he was known as the oldest living settler of the township, having survived all his generation. DUNTEN is still a very prominent name in Perry Township.

ALBERT WOOD was a settler of 1833, who married Miss NANCY DUNTEN, the daughter of EPHRIAM DUNTEN, SR., the year of his arrival, this being the first wedding in this group of colonists. Their daughter, MARY JANE WOOD, was the first white child born in the settlement.

Chicago, Robert O. Law Co. 1917

PERRY TOWNSHIIP

Monarchs of all they surveyed were CHARLES WEEKS and WILLIAM CASWELLfor the first three years of their pioneership in the township of Perry. Belonging to that early group of settlers who invaded the forests of Adams township in 1823, their experience had made them bold enough to go further still and to brave the lack of human society for the pursuit of the furred and feathered denizens of Perry. Both men were famous hunters yet industrious axemen, and their farms were well-cleared. MR. CASWELL, a Canadian, was perhaps the hardier and more aggressive of the two, but the team work of these friends was excellent. They were joined in 1833 by THOMAS AND EPHRAIM H. DUNTEN, and the latter's son HORACE F., with their families. The Duntens did not allow the underbrush to lie long in their path to pioneer prosperity. Horace built the first hewn log house the summer following his arrival and EPHRIAM H. DUNTEN, JR., who came in the fall was but a few months later in building the first store room of the settlement, on a spot which is now a town lot in Huntertown. To this frame building, he brought goods from Toledo, by way of the canal as far as Fort Wayne and thence to the woodland market place by wagon, thus establishing a business which endured far beyond real pioneer days, being carried on by his sons after him.

The Lima Road was opened about the same time, and as it immediately became a popular route for travel and pioneer traffic, this same Mr. Dunten set up a temperory tavern beside it, near the future village. Guests poured in, and the geneal host found it necessary within a few years, to build a more commodious hostelry. A brick kiln, set up about this time, seems to have been the only unsuccessful venture this man ever made. He fell victim to the cholera epidemic in 1854. THOMAS DUNTEN, the uncle, left a beautiful farmhome in New York, and undertook the hardships of pioneer living in Indiana in the hope of providing equally good fortunes for each of his children. He was a generous and self-sacrificing father and neighbor, bearing his share and more of the difficulties of the first few winters. AT a time when the corn supply was so short that it became necessary to make a 7 days trip by ox-team to bring grain from settlements farther north, Mr. Dunten was the first to go, though it involved sleeping at night in the forest, as there was no other shelter by the way. His children were given the best education obtainable under the circumstances, and were capable of afterward making the most of what they received. His daughter, LUCINDA, was a pupil in a school taught by EBENEZER AYRES, claimed to be the first term taught in Perry Township. MR. DUNTEN AND WIFE were both born in Vermont. HORACE F. DUNTEN, only 20 years of age when he enteredhis first forty acres, proceeded at once to enlarge his holdings by the labor of his hands, earning $16 per month at canal work, and $10 a month when canal work closed for the winters. A quiet, steadfast and industrious citizen, his services to the community may be estimated to some extent by the circumstance that of his 10 children, 8 became teachers. THOMAS DUNTEN AND HORACE together selected the site of the cemetery near Huntertown. Toward the end of HORACE DUNTEN'S life he was known as the oldest living settler of the township, having survived all his generation. DUNTEN is still a very prominent name in Perry Township.

ALBERT WOOD was a settler of 1833, who married Miss NANCY DUNTEN, the daughter of EPHRIAM DUNTEN, SR., the year of his arrival, this being the first wedding in this group of colonists. Their daughter, MARY JANE WOOD, was the first white child born in the settlement.

NATHANIEL FITCH who first came to Allen County in 1832 entered Perry in 1836. His marriage to MISS SARAH DELONG was the first celebrated after the organization of the township, and within the township borders. MR. FITCH, was a self-made blacksmith, and a man of all-around ability, whose forge was the first to be set up in Perry, the date being 1837. At nearly the same time, JAMES VANDERGRIFT, engaged in the manufacture of plow points and steel traps, both useful implements in a pioneer community. BENJAMIN AND AMAZIAH PARKER followed the DUNTENS from Jefferson County, New York, in 1834, and soon became prominent in the affairs of the settlement. MR. AND MRS. JASON HATCH from Pennsylvania came with their son, NEWMAN HATCH, in 1834. NEWMAN HATCH was married in 1839 to MISS ABIGAIL PARKER, daughter of the Benjamin Parkers. PHILEMON RUNDELS, who came the same year, GEORGE SIMON, and JAMES VANDOLAH and family credited to 1836, were valuable additions to the colony. A notable year was 1837 during which arrived WILLIAM HUNTER, who purchased a large tract of land, including that part which subsequently was platted as Huntertown. MR. HUNTER at once became an active citizen. The years immediately following this witnessed a sudden increase in immigration, and names can scarcely be mentioned in detail. Most of them are still familiar, however, to Allen County citizens, the BOWSERS, the TUCKERS, the GLOYDS, JAMES THOMPSON, ISAAC BENWARD, RAPIN ANDREWS, JACOB HILLEGASS, VACHEL METCALF, DR. E. G. WHEELOCK, AUGUST MARTIN AND SAMUEL SHRYOCK are among them. Dr. Wheelock was of course the first physician of the colony.

The first election was held in 1835 in the pursuance of the order of the commissioners at WILLIAM CASWELL'S house, and MR. CASWELL was appointed Inspector by the board. MR. CASWELL and JASON HATCH were elected Justices of the Peace. The first post office established in 1836 was located in the home of CHARLES WEEKS, where it remained until 1840 when it was removed to the residence of WILLIAM HUNTER, who at that time became postmaster. The first school taught, in 1835, though housed in a log cabin like many other pioneer schools, was far superior to the common run of such schools. It is said that the first term was taught by EBENEZER AYERS, but this is probably incorrect, and the honor should be give to MISS ELIZA PARKER, the daughter of BENJAMIN.

The first mill, the prime necessity of new settlements, was built for Perry township by "BLAIR AND HINES" and was merely a sawmill at first. A corn cracker was added afterward, which made a product too coarse to be called meal, and while a little better than nothing, was felt to be a dubious blessing, even at that early day. SAMUEL SHRYOCK bought the mill in 1836 and sent to Dayton for a "run of burrs" which was put in, making it a merchant mill and established a profitable custom. 15 or 16 years later the mill was sold to JOHN STONER and thereafter was known as "Stoner's Mills".

In 1834 and 1835 respectively, THOMAS and his nephew, HORACE F. DUNTEN set out orchards, the first to be planted in the township which after 50 years had passed, were still in fine fruit-bearing condition. The first road to be surveyed through the township extended from Fort Wayne to the Union Mill. It was opened in 1835 and in 1849 was planked and became a source of large profit to its projectors, as it was traversed by a line of state coaches and the extensive timber industry of the district reached a market by its means. Its importance as a thoroughfare of this latter sort waned, however, after the advent of the railroads, and the planks being allowed to decay, the

road was gradually abandoned for better routes. In later years, of course, these once neglected roads are being renewed, for the more legitimate rural traffic, and the Lima Road is once more a factor in the highway system, the county having assumed its improvement.

MR. NICKERSON, a Methodist exhorter, was the first to hold religious services in Perry Township, the place of worship being the house of HORACE DUNTEN, the year 1834. Several weeks later another service was held in a log cabin near the site of Huntertown conducted by REV. MR. RANKIN, the Presbyterian minister from Fort Wayne. Everybody went to these meetings, regardless of their denominational leanings. The Methodists were the first to organize, in 1836, and also the first to build a church in 1846 at Huntertown. Robinson Chapel was a second building of the same denomination, in 1851, the land for the chapel and also for a cemetery, being donated by Andrew Byers. The same year a Universalist church was organized and built and shortly after a Sunday School was opened, which being non-sectarian, accommodated all the children of the district. Several years later the Methodists opened a large Sunday School of their own, but also non-sectarian so that the children of Perry Township who were not instructed in the way wherein they ought to walk, must have been a rarity. Secular education received early and careful attention. The second school to be opened was taught (1837) in a log cabin on section 8 by MATTHEW MONTGOMERY, a man of fine talent and training, and who have great impetus to education in general in the district and was a person of inspiration to his pupils. He won early prominence in the community, and in 1846 was a candidate on the Whig ticket for State Representative, but was defeated by PETER KISER, on purely partisan grounds. MR. MONTGOMERY'S work for Perry Township terminated by his death while yet in early prime.

JAMES VANDOLAH first visited Perry township vicinity in 1832, while searching for a desirable mill site with convenient water power. He located one on Cedar Creek, and having secured the land he returned to Ohio for 3 years, coming back in 1835 to dig a race for his mill. He then returned for his family, and in 1836, they settled on the farms where his sons afterward spent most of their lives. MR. VANDOLAH'S land holdings were extensive, including not only the 520 acres in Perry, but 400 acres in Eel River township, and a quarter section in DeKalb County. He was an expert mill-wright, and spent a great part of his time at his trade, having worked at many mills in the middle west. The Shryock mill at Leo, the Dawson mill at Spencerville, the grist mill near Clarksville, his own mill and a number of others were built by him. MR. VANDOLAH was township trustee several terms. The VANDOLAHS reared a family of 8 children, 5 of whom survived the parents, and achieved honor and prosperity in their own right, as well as worthily inheriting that of their parents. BENJAMIN VANDOLAH, who was but 3 years of age when brought to Indiana, has spent his whole after life on the same farm, one of the best which have been unearthed on its soil. THOMAS VANDOLAH, the 2nd son, was also prominent as a farmer and in the social life about him, but has always avoided office holding.

SOLOMON SIMON, who came to Perry township when only 12, there to live and die, was a pioneer by heredity. Three generations of pioneering must so have imbued his blood with pioneer spirit that one thinks this pioneer lad must have come to the new country alone, had his parents not brought him. His grandfather was a pioneer of Washington County, Pennsylvania, to which place he carried his infant son, George, across the mountains in a pack-saddle, a journey which the baby survived, growing to

vigorous manhood on the new soil. But he too would go a-pioneering and Columbiana County , Ohio, was his next home, settling there in 1809, and from there enlisting in the war of 1812. After a service of 6 months he returned and farmed for more than 20 years during which time , in 1825, his son Solomon was born. The year 1836 saw the family settled in Perry township. GEORGE SIMON died in 1872. SOLOMON married in 1852 MARY A. RHOADS, the daughter of DeKalb County settlers. The charm which held the SIMONS for life in Perry township was perhaps the elusive thing, Prosperity, at last captured and domesticated here, the beginning of fortune being a trade in 'coon skins and other furs, of which the forests were full. MR. AND MRS. SIMON were members of the old Lutheran church in which MR. SIMON was an elder. Seven sons and daughters honor their memory.

The story of JOHN SURFUS should receive more detailed narration than can be accorded here, but however briefly, it must be given for in counting over the old pioneers it might be easy to overlook some who did not come with a flourish of, axes let us say, or at least with a fair assortment of worldly implements, education, money, and similar plenishings, with which to subdue the wilds and make themselves fairly comfortable while they did this. JOHN SURFUS did not come with any of these. Hard circumstances landed him in Perry township, unlettered, penniless, with the care of what was left of his family upon his hands, at the age of 21. The sum of the Surfus worldly goods when they arrived at the wilderness home, may be briefly stated: A yoke of cattle, a table, chest, set of wooden chairs, and an oven. Their first bed was made by boring holes in the log walls of the cabin, and setting hewn poles, which were then wrapped with elm bark for a mattress. Yet energy and perseverance will work wonders even if the tools be few and crude. After nine long years of struggle, MR. SURFUS was married to ELLEN DELONG, a brave and faithful woman, who assisted her husband without flagging, and added 12 children, ten of whom survived them to the population of Perry. To the careless ear, the recital of these struggles may sound dull and sorid, but to the man who began life with such empty hands, what romance there must be in the review of 60 years of toil, as he sits at ease and comfort by his prosperous hearthstone, basking in the warmth of achievement! What a picture he must see, as he looks back, across a thousand smiling acres of farmlands, to the rude little cabin with its bed of hickory poles while in the foreground the smoke of his children's hearthfires feathers the landscape like incense! Let posterity doff its hat to the John Surfuses of pioneer history.

My Note: JOHN SURFUS came to DeKalb County as one of the early pioneers in 1835 with his father, Andrew and his brother, Jacob. Also they built a cabin while here for a brother, William. They came from Montgomery County or Miami County, Ohio, with GEORGE DELONG, and PETER AND ABRAHAM FAIR.

NATHANIEL FITCH was another who came empty-handed to the wilderness. Shrewd and intelligent, he had learned for himself numerous trades, being blacksmith, gunsmith, locksmith, with which he speedily made himself indispensable. Starting from Pennsylvania with but 15 cents in his pocket he was obliged to walk, and earn his board en route. His life had already been full of adventure. Before he came to Indiana he had been shot in the leg during a wolf hunt; and again, while crossing Lake Erie on a side-wheel steamer, their ship was caught in a gale and one shaft disabled. In this predicament, in which ruin seemed inevitable, they were saved by the stratagem of breaking the other shaft. Not only the wild beast inhabited the forests at the time when Nathaniel set up his forge, but Indians were still very numerous, and though subdued, were by no means fully civilized. On one occasion he was obliged to ask an Indian, who had a gun to mend, to wait, whereat the Indian became enraged and sprang at him with knife drawn. Mr. Fitch was sharpening a shovel at the moment, and an old story quaintly states that the Indian would probably have been hurt with the shovel had not the chief, Chopine, intervened. Among other notable things recorded to Mr. Fitch's credit is his work for the canal, for which he made all the iron used in the locks from Fort Wayne to the Wabash River. He was married, 1840, to SARAH, the daughter of GEORGE AND ELIZABETH DELONG. Fifteen children came to them, thirteen of whom outlived their parents, who reared them in comfort while amassing a large property. 2,300 acres, all told, belonged to the Fitches by the time they reached the evening of life.

PERRY FITCH, the eldest son married SARAH E. GLOYD, daughter of GEORGE AND MAGDALENA GLOYD, and reared to maturity 8 of their 12 children. MR. FITCH was 12 years a Justice of the Peace.

MATHIAS FITCH, Nathaniel's second son married FRANCES VANDOLAH, daughter of JAMES AND REBECCA VANDOLAH. They also have been very prominent, and their 6 children who survived to adulthood have proved worthy sons and daughters.

Another son of NATHANIEL FITCH was AMOS FITCH who married the daughter of WILLIAM T. HUNTER, MISS NANCY E. HUNTER, their family consisting of one son and one daughter, while DAVID FITCH, the youngest of the sons, married EMMA B. STIRLEN and lived on the homestead farm with his aged mother.

GEORGE B. GLOYD became a conspicuous figure very soon after his arrival in 1832, being a man of much executive ability and consequently in demand in the construc5tion of the public works of his time. His first engagement was as superintendent of part of the construction work on the Wabash and Erie Canal. He was married to MISS MAGDALENA MITTLER, of Ohio, in 1835. Subsequently he undertook various contracts in railroad building, and at the time of his death was engaged in this work on the Saginaw Railroad (now the L.S.& M.S.) MR. GLOYD was successful from every viewpoint, and his family of 8 are now worthy representatives of the name in their native township.

JEROME D. GLOYD, married in 1875 to FITELIA FITCH, daughter of NATHANIEL AND SARAH FITCH, has 4 children, and after serving the township for years as trustee, was elected County Commissioner in 1882, re-elected in 1884, and served six years in all. WILLIAM S. GLOYD, the third son, marred MISS MARY GUNDER.

EDWIN G. GLOYD by natural adaptation became an expert miller, and the proprietor of the Gloyd Water Mill. (Originally the Vandolah Mill.)

SCHUYLER WHEELER was born in Massachusetts but reaared in Oswego County, New York, where at the age of 9 years he was apprenticed to the tanner's trade, and at the age of 21, formed a partnership with his father and LUTHER BRIGGS, in a combination tannery and boot and shoe store. MR. WHEELER was a strong character, which has commended him to the respect of his new neighbors in Allen County, when he brought his family here in 1836. He succeeded financially, and left a large property. In public life he served as representative of Allen county in the State legislature of 1859. MRS. LYDIA SMITH WHEELER was also a native of Massachusetts.

DAVID M. SHOAFF, who came to Allen county in 1839, with his brave young wife, MARY MENDENHALL, and their 2 little babes, had their share of hardships, and triumphs also. Young, moneyless, and with very little else than pluck, they made their way, MR. SHOAFF working in the winters for better situated neighbors at the princely stipend of 50 cents a day, and spending the summer at his own clearing, in which work MARY helped him, gathering and burning brush while her babies played at a safe distance on the ground. Safe distance, do we say? As if any distance were safe in a country which harbored wild animals and teemed with snakes not all of which were harmless. Who can tell what fears assailed the young pioneer mother's heart at the slightest call of distress from her little ones while she worked to help make them a home? Among other incidents attending the pioneer life of DAVID SHOAFF is related a memorable trip he made to Maumee City, Ohio. Salt it seems was selling in Fort Wayne for $9 per barrel in the spring of 1840. This was deemed too high a price to pay with wages at 50 cents per day. Still, salt was a necessity. A brother, JAMES P. SHOAFF, furnished the money and DAVID SHOAFF and F. C. FREEMAN undertook the trip. It was early March and the snow was so deep and heavy that it took 12 days to reach Maumee City. The return trip was made by way of the still frozen Maumee River, a route quite common in winter, but fraught with some danger in March. They had some narrow escapes from drowning, though they reached home safely at last, but it was a rather expensive barrel of salt after all, even reckoning their wages at 50 cents a day. The arrow that flieth by day had been driven from the woods, but arrows were not all the risks that beset the settler's path to fortune. When in the fall of 1843 DAVID SHOAFF helped to build the houses of his brother J. P. SHOAFF, and SQUIRE JONES. They were the first houses between his own home and Heller's Corners on that road which ADAM HULL and his neighbors helped to cut. DAVID SHOAFF and RAPIN ANDREWS, though coming to Perry at nearly the same time, but in quite different circumstances, were both there in time to be two of the 11 voters in the township to cast a vote at the first presidential election held there. DAVID was a Whig. RAPIN was a Whig.

RAPIN ANDREWS, who came with his wife, MARY BRIMMER and their 2 sons, from New York, had already attained worldly success before they became pioneers in Perry township. MR. ANDREWS brought ripe experience to the affairs of the new district, and was from the outset a valuable and appreciated citizen. He died in 1849 at the age of 67. THERON ANDREWS, his oldest son, born in New York state March 1822, was married in 1849 to HELEN L. POTTER, daughter of Oliver and Clarissa Potter, born October 1830. THERON ANDREWS during a long life in Perry was one of its foremost men, having served successively as township assessor, township trustee, member of

the board of County Commissioners, Board of Drainage Commissioners, and a member of the Board of Equalization. His family occupy a social position of high regard. DEXTER B. ANDREWS, the second son of Rapin and Mary Andrews, married in 1849 MISS CELESTE A. SAUERS, born at Watertown, New York, October 1832. The year before he had entered the shops at Fort Wayne, never completing this course, but gifted with unusual cleverness in many directions of a mechanical nature, he was successful in whatever he undertook. For several years, Mr. Andrews devoted a part of his energies to daguerreotyping, in which, although entirely self-taught, he made an enviable local reputation. During his various experiences and changes of occupation, he saw a great deal of the United States, a broadening process which made him always one of the township's most valued citizens. He left 3 daughters, AMELIA (MRS. J. N. BASSETT), CORA M. (MRS. L. C. HUNTER) and CLARA G.

PHANUEL JACKSON, who came to Perry township with his sister and her husband, ELEAZER CUMMINGS, from Maine, to a farm which afterward became his, had an unusual career, if being a successful farmer, and a practical one, and for more than 20 years a successful (self-taught) practitioner as an oculist, becoming also licensed physician of Allen County may be called unusual. MR. JACKSON was elected Justice of the Peace in 1886. Three daughters, MERCY M., MARGARET D., and MELIA N., survived him and a fourth, CORDELIA M., dying some years before. After the CUMMINGS in 1842, came JOSEPH WARNER, who earned his first 40 acres by clearing another 20 acres during his first winter in Perry, a good bargain well fulfilled. His son SAMUEL, "a born carpenter' who never lacked a job, because of the good quality of his work. He married JULIA A. SPENCER and they reared 7 children to be a credit to their training.

SAMUEL WARNER was a member of the "Regulators", an organization formed to rid the country of outlaws, as were also DAVID FITCH and MATHIAS FITCH, and JACOB KELL, whose sister was the wife of PHANUEL JACKSON.

The KELLS were of Franco-German descent. JACOB KELL came to Perry in 1843, and entered, in all, 120 acres of land. He earned the money with which to furnish his own house by splitting rails at 75 cents per hundred, furnishing the timber and boarding himself while doing the work. JACOB KELL was a "Regulator" and served as township trustee for 4 years. Industry, not speculation, was ever the method of Mr. Kell, who amassed thereby a 1000 acres of Allen county's best farming land, 800 of which was incorporated in his homestead farm.

SOLOMON KELL, his son, received a good education at the Perry Centre Seminary, after which he taught for 5 years, a part of that time as a resident of Iowa, where he was honored with public office, returning to his native township in Indiana, and took a similar position to that of his father in the estimation of the community. He was a constable, and a "Regulator", in both of which capacities he did his full duty.

The family of JACOB HILLEGASS has been one of extreme prominence since its first arrival in 1843, and is so well known all over the county that it seems odd that its personal history was nearly all made in Perry township. As a boy, JACOB HILLEGASS was a pioneer's son in Montgomery County, Ohio, receiving only the meagre advantages afforded by the log school houses in the woods. Married in 1841 to MISS LUCY A. POWELL, like himself of Pennsylvania origin, the young people came to Perry in 1843 and took up the half section where they pass the remainder of their lives. It is

impossible to go into detail, but MR. HILLEGASS'S career was characterized by every quality of good citizenship, and he was in constant requirement as an official of the township, and also of the county. Mr. and Mrs. Hillegass were both Presbyterians, and reared their fine family of girls and boys in that creed. Mr. Hillegass was always a supporter of churches in general, also of schools and all worthy enterprises. Determined that his children should not like himself, lack opportunity, he encouraged each one in his bent, and gave them the most liberal advantages. Three of his sons graduated from Michigan University, JOSIAH and ISAIAH becoming lawyers, while JEREMIAH or "Jerry" was called from his post-graduate course at college to become County Superintendent of Schools. HEZEKIAH chose a farmer's life and the daughters SARAH, MARY and LUCY received their education in the Fort Wayne High School. SARAH became the wife of her brother's law partner, JOHN STAHL (who died in 1878) and MARY married the late Silas B. MacManus, the well-famed dialect poet, whose quaint and sincere verses touch many a Hoosier heart.

PERRY CENTRE SEMINARY, already referred to, was an institution founded in 1856 by NATHANIEL FITCH, JACOB KELL, and GEORGE B. GLOYD, and, notwithstanding its short existence, bore strong witness to the quality of Perry township people. It was a flourishing institution for 5 years, during which time it gave a start to men and women who have since made a name for themselves and the township. Among the names of its pupils are the HILLEGASS boys, DR. S. C. METCALF, DR. E. G. WHEELOCK, and the three GLOYDS, JEROME, WILLIAM and ALBERT, the MCQUISTONS, DR. DILLS, of Fort Wayne, HIRAM MYERS, and MISS JENNIE FITCH, afterward professor of Greek and Latin at Logansport. At the breaking out of the Civil War, the seminary faculty and all of its adult students enlisted, which was praiseworthy and has happened to other schools with like result, namely, it was deserted, and at the close of the war its scattered pupils were grown up or had found other openings. It was too late to resuscitate the once promising educational center. The building went to decay, and is only remembered by what it has done.

WILLIAM T. HUNTER, whose name is perpetuated in the one village of Perry township, was a native of Cumberland, England, who first came to America in 1828, and in 1837 settled in Perry, on the Lima Road. He began clearing a farm at the same time but conducted a tavern at his home. The site of Huntertown was a natural gathering place for settlers' homes, as it was the only spot not covered with forest. "The Opening" as it was called, was not made by the settlers, nor for them. However, they gladly availed themselves of it, setting up their temporary cabins and camps there while they cleared more permanent sites for home building. MRS. MARY JANE BEARDSLEY, nee WOOD, the first while child born in Perry, still resides in Huntertown. Her faculties at the age of 83 are still unimpaired and active in mind and body "the youngest old lady in town". The "Opening" at the Huntertown site is thus explained by MRS. BEARDSLEY, who learned of it from the Indians in her childhood. Lying north and south of a slight eminence of Huntertown, which once was forest, also were two muck prairies both of which took fire in some very dry season, and burned until they reached the edges of the forest, destroying the timber before it burned itself out. The opening, as has been stated was included in the land purchased by Mr. Hunter, whether in a mood of prophecy or no, we cannot tell. When the town was finally platted in 1869, a village already existed, in effect, so close was the settlement in that spot. Many of the homes in Huntertown are preserved from settlement days, remodeled or rebuilt upon the same site as those of their forefathers. The building of the Grand Rapids and Indiana Rail-

road was the opportunity which crystallized the rural community into an organized town. Forty-five town lots were sold in a day, after the plat was opened, an auspicious beginning for the new shipping point.

MRS. BEARDSLEY was born while her parents were still partially sheltered in the "prairie schooner" which had brought them and their furnishings to the settlement, many of these vehicles being the nearest approach to civilized luxury attainable in those days. She related several particulars which are enlightning in the study of the development of the locality. The Indians, generally friendly, were familiar visitors at the white cabins, asking not only for food but fire water. If the settler's family had what was asked for, they gave it. Indeed, the Indian never accepted a refusal. If the cabin, as commonly happened in Perry anyway, contained no fire water, the only way to maintain peace was to invite the Indian in and allow him to search the premises for himself. If he found what he wanted he took it and if not, he kept his good temper. MRS. BEARDSLEY has watched the prairie schooner drawn by oxen, and the saddlebags method of transportation give way in succession to the spring wagon with its span or horses, the old-fashioned "high buggy", the stage coach (some of elegance in its day), the railroad, with its only passenger accommodation, the "caboose", then the modern passenger trains, and now the electric cars, and the automobile, the latest cry of progress, and she quaintly gauges the advance of Perry township by these epoch-making changes.

Of the two churches, the METHODIST and UNIVERSALIST, which flourished at Huntertown, the Methodist still thrives, but the Universalist following has dwindled until the chapel has now been closed for a long time. A two-room township school is located in the village. The chief street of Huntertown is the Lima Road, along which the electric interurban line extends, and which within the village goes by the name of Plank Street. At intervals along the street, the business of the town is strung, the lines of trade represented, including: The livery and garage headquarters of J. L. MCCOMB, and CHARLES S. KRUSE; two general stores kept by MCCOMB AND SLOFFER, and J. C. RUNYAN; two meat markets kept by H. J. HILLEGASS, and V. E. MCCOMB; a restaurant and grocery managed by W. B. COLE, a drug store, C. O. BUSH, proprietor; the plumbing, cemetery fixtures and lightning rod establishment of W. J. SNYDER; two dealers in agricultural implements, A. J. BAKER and SAMUEL HIEBER; two blacksmith shops, run by W. F. SNYDER and W. A. GRIMME and sons; the wagon "smithy" of N. C. GLAZIER; H. G. DUNLAP'S dry cleaning house and two tonsorial parlors. Huntertown is both temperate and peaceful, supporting neither saloons nor lawyers. The ailments of the town are healed by DR. FRANK GREENWELL, long established and known the country "round" and DR. HARRY ERWIN, "the young doctor". MRS. GREENWELL is the daughter of W. T. HUNTER, and with her daughter, MRS. H. C. NELSON, is as well-known as the doctor himself. The Huntertown State Bank, CHARLES HARTUNG, president has very smart headquarters, above which are the Masonic Lodge rooms. Visible are the little interurban depot, the HATCH Hotel, and the post office. The latter serves three rural routes, is in charge of MRS. MYRA WARCUP, a daughter of early citizens. MRS. WARCUP'S father and mother, STEPHEN THORNTON and ANGELINE CUMMINGS, were married 60 years ago in a little cottage which still stands at the north end of the village street and during their earlier married life lived at the hotel which was at that time the WAMSLEY HOUSE, kept for a long period by CHRISTOPHER WAMSLEY, who traveled for the Updegraff firm in Fort Wayne. The hotel is fully 70 years old, the original house from which it was enlarged, being still older than that. It is well preserved and still conducted by MRS. MARY

HATCH into whose hands it passed after the proprietorship of the WAMSLEYS. The place is well-known to the tourists who stop there for the good country dinners which are served.

Telephones are supplied to Huntertown by the Farmers' Mutual exchange, and connected with Fort Wayne by the Bell Company's lines. A little paper called the "HUNTERTOWN ECHO" is published fortnightly by the Methodist minister. Huntertown has no fire department, but is organizing a volunteer company, and arrangements are being made to raise money for the apparatus, as fires have been frequent, though fortunately not very disastrous. The community is very proud of its new agricultural society, the only one in the county, and strengthening rapidly. Its second cattle show will be held this year (1917) and real premiums are being offered, where only ribbons could be awarded in 1916. Fancy stock sales are conducted by the society also. DR. FRANK GREENWELL is the president. But the automobile that flies along Plank Street without stopping, flinging the dust of Lima road all over the village porches, cannot realize the really big industry of Huntertown, which is the mammoth elevator plat of the "Huntertown Grain Elevator Company". The elevator, or rather several which preceded it and perished by fire, had been in existence since the early railroad days. At first it was used only for grains, but since it was taken over, in 1910, by the new company, it has been repeatedly enlarged and broadened to include the storing of lumber, cement, and all sorts of building material, as well as other agricultural products, such as potatoes (from as far away as Minnesota), and is constantly crowded to capacity, which for grain, is 10,000 bushels, but like the omnibus will always hold a little more. In 1916 the capital stock was increased from $8,000 to $30,000, all of which is sold, and which pays from 20 to 40 percent. A milling room has been added, which grinds only for customers, and not for the trade. DR. GREENWELL is the president of the company.

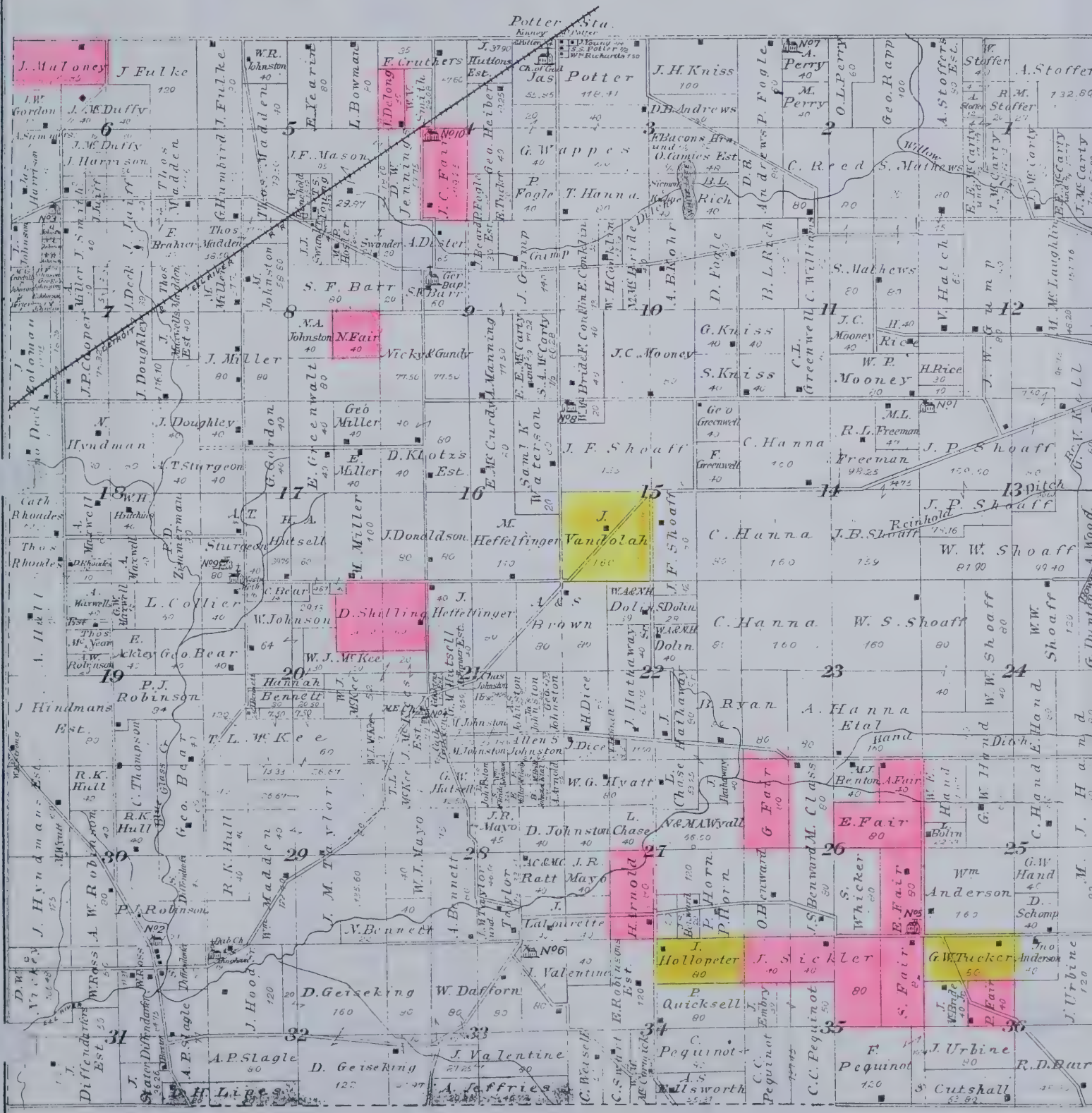
Huntertown has an actual population of about 250 wide-awake individuals, and has all the materials of growth, in spite of which the census shows but slight increase from time to time. Perhaps the new "community spirit" has not yet been breathed into its nostrils.

Between the Huntertown neighborhood and the Eel River line is located the fresh air camp of the Anti-tuberculosis League of Fort Wayne, known as "Fort Recovery", while well to the south of this, in portions of sections 30 and 31 of Perry, and section 36 of Eel River Township, lies the new tract purchased by the county for a county infirmary to which, before long, the county dependents will be removed.

For picturesqueness and unique topographical features no part of Allen County equals Perry township. "Dutch Ridge" the highest point in Allen County, is a part of the Wabash-Aboite moraine, which, near the bend of Cedar Creek in the vicinity of Gloyd's Mill, lies more than 100 feet above the creek which runs through a deep gorge cut through the moraine near its highest altitude. The sides and the gorge, steep and precipitous, are of great beauty, clothed with trees and vegetation of wild variety. A wagon road in very good condition leads through the gorge, which abounds in attraction to the artist or the tourist, and should be better known and more visited than it ever has been. The whole vicinity is picturesque in the extreme, Gloyd's Mill, the successor, on the same site, of the VANDOLAH MILL, itself being worth a trip in that direction. There are cold springs of mineral water in the neighborhood, which offer considerable advantage as a place of summer sojourn.

MAP OF EEL RIVER TOWNSHIP

T. 32. N, R. 11. E.





RES OF **DAVID SHILLING**, EEL RIVER TP. ALLEN CO, IND.

held in great esteem by the people of the settlement upon whose walls his picture is still seen. About 1870, under the pastoral care of Father Adam, a French refugee, the name of Besancon was applied to the settlement, in remembrance of the city in France from which a majority of the colony emigrated to America. The new church, built before 1875, was paid for in a unique way. Each family was asked to donate a calf, and to raise it to the age of three years; the proceeds from the public sale of the young animals thus provided, netted the sum of three thousand dollars. A school was built in 1900, and under the title St. Joseph's, and taught by Sisters of St. Agnes, accommodates Catholic children from all over the township and beyond.

Lumbering industries were the foundation, in the early fifties, of the now quiet little village of Maples. Mr. Lewis S. Maples came to the place in 1852, to take charge of a sawmill engine. The Pennsylvania road furnished convenient transportation, and the mill flourished, while other lumber working factories sprang up. In August, 1853, Oehmig Bird and J. Bowser platted a village and considerable business was engaged in. The various phases of manufacture received the attention and capital of many men from elsewhere in the county, the Fitch brothers, Williams, Olds, Roberts, Bohyer and Cary, all had a hand in them and during that time the village of Maples was not so quiet a place, after all. Frequent conflagrations and rebuildings must have varied the monotony to quite a degree, threatening the extinction of the town on each occasion. Lewis S. Maples at last came to own once more all the lumber industry in the town, and with its gradual wane, and his retirement to a farm, a Sabbath stillness hovers over the village which bears his name, except in the vicinity of the railroad, which now employs all of the labor of the town. The town now has two hundred inhabitants, supports one Protestant Methodist church, and is the site of one public school. It has one resident physician, one grain elevator, one well-drilling firm, one blacksmith shop, two general stores, and will soon be well rid of its one saloon. Telephones are supplied from the Monroeville and New Haven exchanges. Good macadamized roads lead in and out of Maples, and the railroad employs about thirty men who live in the town. One of the largest farms in the county is adjacent to the village, owned by J. W. Nail and employing several persons. Maples still has an independent postoffice. The first postoffice in the township was established, in 1850, at the house of Socrates Bacon, but it was so much more to the inclination of the settlers to go to New Haven, that the office was soon abandoned. R. F. D. routes from New Haven and Monroeville now reach every part of the township except the Maples vicinity.

"Nail's," "Tillman's," "Zulu" and "Oakton" are travel points on the various roads running through the township.

The Catholic Cemetery is situated in the northwestern part of Jefferson township, and there is also a German Lutheran church edifice in that vicinity. Among the French descendants resident in the township the Girardot family has multiplied remarkably, and the Gladieux name is about equally numerous. Amiel Gladieux, of late Sheriff of Allen county, is a member of the Gladieux of Jefferson.

Eel River Township

"Once this soft turf, this rivulet's sands
Were trampled by a hurrying crowd,
And fiery hearts and armed hands
Encountered in a battle cloud."—Bryant.

What quaint conceit was responsible for the name bestowed upon the little river that winds through the extreme northwest of the county may only be conjectured, but the name is appropriately applied to Eel River township since the stream finds its source there. Blue Grass Creek also begins in the northwestern part, and flowing south joins Eel river to the southwest of Heller's Corners; but modern drainage has reconstructed this stream and its pretty name is lost in a series of ditches bearing their petitioners' names. Willow Creek, which drains the northeastern portion, then meanders eastward, eventually emptying into Cedar Creek, has likewise been assisted, but not so ruinously as Blue Grass—for it retains its name, in places. However, the hand of the white settler does really "improve," and often serves to develop hidden natural beauties. This is true of Eel River township, in which red man nor white man could have foreseen certain features of the present landscape through the dense timber which clothed it a hundred years ago. Allen County holds no prettier sight, today, than the meeting of the ways at "Old" Heller's Corners—nor is the new Heller's Corners far behind it in attraction.

The first white settlers to enter the Eel River territory after the departure of the Indians were William Kellison and his brother, and Joseph Crowe, from Darke County, Ohio. The Kellison brothers, coming in 1828, had erected cabins and set to work clearing land on what long afterward became widely known as the Gieseking farm. Lonely and isolated, and at that period probably obliged to hunt and trap for most of their food, they did not make rapid progress at their clearing, and were quite ready, when Adam Hull and family arrived in 1830, to sell out their "deadenings" to him, and betake themselves farther west. Adam Hull was of true pioneer material—not the merely adventurous spirit, but the hardy giant who delights to pit his strength against opposing circumstance and subdue it to his will,—the type of man who invariably becomes a leader in his world. That he became well known throughout the county was a matter of course. The rough sports which characterized those days when the pioneers met in the market town witnessed many a good-natured wrestling bout in which Adam Hull proved unconquerable. One of Mr. Hull's first moves after settling was to build a much needed bridge across Eel river, the first bridge to span that stream. He exacted a reasonable toll from those who crossed it, to which quite unreasonable objection was sometimes made by travelers who wished to enjoy its convenience. Perhaps Mr. Hull's prowess at personal encounter was an invisible safeguard, for, in spite of this grumbling, "Horatio held the bridge!" At the same time, his cabin (mayhap enlarged) became a shelter to many homeseekers westward bound, so, the student of early history may be assured, it was no lack of generosity or human kindliness which demanded a trifling toll for the useful bridge which carried so many

held in great esteem by the people of the settlement upon whose walls his picture is still seen. About 1870, under the pastoral care of Father Adam, a French refugee, the name of Besancon was applied to the settlement, in remembrance of the city in France from which a majority of the colony emigrated to America. The new church, built before 1875, was paid for in a unique way. Each family was asked to donate a calf, and to raise it to the age of three years; the proceeds from the public sale of the young animals thus provided, netted the sum of three thousand dollars. A school was built in 1900, and under the title St. Joseph's, and taught by Sisters of St. Agnes, accommodates Catholic children from all over the township and beyond.

Lumbering industries were the foundation, in the early fifties, of the now quiet little village of Maples. Mr. Lewis S. Maples came to the place in 1852, to take charge of a sawmill engine. The Pennsylvania road furnished convenient transportation, and the mill flourished, while other lumber working factories sprang up. In August, 1853, Oehmig Bird and J. Bowser platted a village and considerable business was engaged in. The various phases of manufacture received the attention and capital of many men from elsewhere in the county, the Fitch brothers, Williams, Olds, Roberts, Bohyer and Cary, all had a hand in them and during that time the village of Maples was not so quiet a place, after all. Frequent conflagrations and rebuildings must have varied the monotony to quite a degree, threatening the extinction of the town on each occasion. Lewis S. Maples at last came to own once more all the lumber industry in the town, and with its gradual wane, and his retirement to a farm, a Sabbath stillness hovers over the village which bears his name, except in the vicinity of the railroad, which now employs all of the labor of the town. The town now has two hundred inhabitants, supports one Protestant Methodist church, and is the site of one public school. It has one resident physician, one grain elevator, one well-drilling firm, one blacksmith shop, two general stores, and will soon be well rid of its one saloon. Telephones are supplied from the Monroeville and New Haven exchanges. Good macadamized roads lead in and out of Maples, and the railroad employs about thirty men who live in the town. One of the largest farms in the county is adjacent to the village, owned by J. W. Nail and employing several persons. Maples still has an independent postoffice. The first postoffice in the township was established, in 1850, at the house of Socrates Bacon, but it was so much more to the inclination of the settlers to go to New Haven, that the office was soon abandoned. R. F. D. routes from New Haven and Monroeville now reach every part of the township except the Maples vicinity.

"Nail's," "Tillman's," "Zulu" and "Oakton" are travel points on the various roads running through the township.

The Catholic Cemetery is situated in the northwestern part of Jefferson township, and there is also a German Lutheran church edifice in that vicinity. Among the French descendants resident in the township the Girardot family has multiplied remarkably, and the Gladieux name is about equally numerous. Amiel Gladieux, of late Sheriff of Allen county, is a member of the Gladieux of Jefferson.

Eel River Township

"Once this soft turf, this rivulet's sands
Were trampled by a hurrying crowd,
And fiery hearts and armed hands
Encountered in a battle cloud."—Bryant.

What quaint conceit was responsible for the name bestowed upon the little river that winds through the extreme northwest of the county may only be conjectured, but the name is appropriately applied to Eel River township since the stream finds its source there. Blue Grass Creek also begins in the northwestern part, and flowing south joins Eel river to the southwest of Heller's Corners; but modern drainage has reconstructed this stream and its pretty name is lost in a series of ditches bearing their petitioners' names. Willow Creek, which drains the northeastern portion, then meanders eastward, eventually emptying into Cedar Creek, has likewise been assisted, but not so ruinously as Blue Grass—for it retains its name, in places. However, the hand of the white settler does really "improve," and often serves to develop hidden natural beauties. This is true of Eel River township, in which red man nor white man could have foreseen certain features of the present landscape through the dense timber which clothed it a hundred years ago. Allen County holds no prettier sight, today, than the meeting of the ways at "Old" Heller's Corners—nor is the new Heller's Corners far behind it in attraction.

The first white settlers to enter the Eel River territory after the departure of the Indians were William Kellison and his brother, and Joseph Crowe, from Darke County, Ohio. The Kellison brothers, coming in 1828, had erected cabins and set to work clearing land on what long afterward became widely known as the Gieseking farm. Lonely and isolated, and at that period probably obliged to hunt and trap for most of their food, they did not make rapid progress at their clearing, and were quite ready, when Adam Hull and family arrived in 1830, to sell out their "deadenings" to him, and betake themselves farther west. Adam Hull was of true pioneer material—not the merely adventurous spirit, but the hardy giant who delights to pit his strength against opposing circumstance and subdue it to his will,—the type of man who invariably becomes a leader in his world. That he became well known throughout the county was a matter of course. The rough sports which characterized those days when the pioneers met in the market town witnessed many a good-natured wrestling bout in which Adam Hull proved unconquerable. One of Mr. Hull's first moves after settling was to build a much needed bridge across Eel river, the first bridge to span that stream. He exacted a reasonable toll from those who crossed it, to which quite unreasonable objection was sometimes made by travelers who wished to enjoy its convenience. Perhaps Mr. Hull's prowess at personal encounter was an invisible safeguard, for, in spite of this grumbling, "Horatio held the bridge!" At the same time, his cabin (mayhap enlarged) became a shelter to many homeseekers westward bound, so, the student of early history may be assured, it was no lack of generosity or human kindliness which demanded a trifling toll for the useful bridge which carried so many

"safe across." The Hulls gave shelter when it was at the risk of their own family that they gave it. The first death which occurred in the township was that of a wayfarer who slept in the cabin, was seized with illness in the night, and died as morning came. Nameless he came to their door, and nameless they buried him, in the old burying ground on the south side of Eel river.

Shortly after this pitiful event, a west-bound family stopped at the Hull cabin for shelter, their children having developed scarlet fever. The extremely contagious nature of the disease was not fully realized at that date, nevertheless, it is an evidence of the Good Samaritan spirit of the first settler's family that room was made in that crowded log cabin home for the suffering children, two of whom died there, and were buried with the wayfaring stranger in that strange new land.

When the final land survey was made a few years after settling it was determined that the Hull cabin was "over the line," a situation which Mr. Hull promptly remedied by buying the next forty acres, thus saving his home.

Peter Heller, recorded in 1833, was the first sharer of the neighborhood with the Hulls. During the year following quite a colony had gathered to the south of the Goshen road, and in 1834, with these neighbors to help, Mr. Hull cut a road through from Heller's Corners east to the township line,—the first highway in Eel River. This road, not being regularly surveyed, was subjected to many changes as time passed, so that but few traces of it are embodied in the re-located highway of today—but it served its purpose then, none the less. At the Christmas season, in 1833, 'Squire DuBois had been called from Fort Wayne to the Hulls' home, to officiate at the marriage of Miss Barbara Hull to Isaac Tibbits, there being no local "squire" as yet, in Eel River. This was the first wedding in the settlement.

The year 1834 brought more sturdy pioneer stock to the settlement. Joseph and John R. Johnston and John Valentine, settling respectively on sections 21, 28 and 33, had arrived by mid-June of that year. 1836 witnessed another inrush of settlers, this time in the eastern portion, in the Lima road vicinity, John P. Shoaff, who in later years became successively Justice, Trustee, and State Representative, being one of this group. Up to 1840 at least, as far as known, Eel River township recruited its pioneer population from Ohio entirely, those who came with Mr. Shoaff being F. C. Freeman, Samuel Hillegass, Samuel Shryock, Benjamin Mason, Joseph Jones, Henry Bossler and Samuel Kniss. Others had drifted in singly, and by April of 1834 the population justified the setting apart of the township. The first election was held duly, with Mr. Hull and Mr. Bond in the field as candidates for the office of Justice. The votes were counted, and a tie was announced. To avoid the expense of a second election, both candidates consented to have the ballots placed in a hat, and well shaken, the election judge then to draw at random the lucky name. This was done, and Mr. Hull won, duly qualifying as first Justice of Eel River. Previous to this, Mr. Hull had been appointed postmaster, a position he continued to hold until his death in 1837. After the election of 1836, Abram Taylor, father of John M. Taylor, came to the Hull neighborhood, while William Anderson settled in the southeast. William F. Mooney

and Uriah Chase took up residence in 1837 and between 1837 and 1840 were added with their families, R. D. Baird, the three Bennetts, Solomon, Caleb and John, John Hathaway, Mr. Schilling, John R. Mayo and William Madden.

On Mr. Mayo's land, in 1837 was built the cabin known as the "Hickory schoolhouse"—it being constructed chiefly of hickory logs—in which the first term of school was taught. The name of that first teacher is forgotten, but John M. Taylor, once Treasurer of Allen county, was a pupil there.

Peter Heller, who succeeded Adam Hull in the postoffice, removed that institution to his own home, and from the soubriquet the office thus gained the locality, the rural metropolis of Eel River took its name "Heller's Corners." A village designed to be called "Kraco" or Cracon was platted in 1835 by Asa Miller, on land which lay on both sides of the Lake township boundary. Its main street was to be not 32 feet narrow, like some city streets, but 132 feet broad. In the center of the plot Mr. Miller reserved a circular park to bear his name. What a pity so amiable a conception should have failed to materialize!

Henry Bossler was a skillful blacksmith, and his forge, the first in Eel River, was set up soon after he arrived in 1836. Joseph Jones, who occupied the farm which afterward became the property of Charles Hanna, brought the first stock of general merchandise to the township, and opened trade in his own house. About 1852, a sawmill was built on the Eel river, by Smith and Diffenderfer, which supplied lumber for the frame houses that began to supplant the log cabins. Its business was of a local character, however, and local needs once supplied, custom fell off gradually, and the mill was allowed to decay in idleness. Peter Heller built a steam grist mill near the same site, in 1855, and for several years operated it successfully, but it was at last destroyed by fire, and not rebuilt. Except for the railroad which cuts across the northwestern corner of the township, the quiet of Eel River township is not broken by any sound of steam save that of harvest engines, but its painted landscape is everywhere astir with rural life, and its ribbon-like roads are beloved of the automobile whether visiting or resident there.

Adam Hull, jr., was a pioneer figure worthy of preservation. A young man nearing twenty years of age when he came to the township with his father, he worked shoulder to shoulder with him, earning his own way to independence. Like his father, he was a born pioneer, and the long struggle by which his original capital of "a five franc piece, a fiddle and a gun" was converted into solid prosperity was thoroughly enjoyed by him. He was married in 1836, to Miss Elizabeth Crowe, but whether before or after the election of April that year, when Mr. Hull, sr., was made Justice and the younger Adam elected Constable over what are now three counties, we do not know. But he bought a government tract, cleared it, and built a log cabin on it before he took his young wife to live upon it. Elizabeth Hull died early, but left a son, the third "Adam." Her husband was married again, in 1845, to Miss Hester Ann Strean, and seven sons and daughters survived him. At the time of his death he had for some time been the oldest township settler living.

Much might be said of the quality of the "Ohio" colony which peopled Eel River township. Certainly there could not have been found a more evenly sterling set of citizens than the personnel of this group of pioneers. Not one of them is there of whom some fine thing cannot be said. They did not come armed with wealth to fight their battles. The only capital any of them brought with them was a few slow-saved hundreds, and most of them came with only the riches of clean health and stout hearts, fortunate if to these they could add a yoke of oxen, a table and a half dozen wooden chairs, and the necessary implements of their trades. Quaint, amusing and pathetic are the mementoes of the log cabin days that descendants still treasure, and around which the great-grandchildren might build again the romances of their fore-bears, —Adam Hull's old Virginia rifle, Adam's, Jr., tax receipts (the unbroken accumulation of more than sixty years), the old clock of Grandfather Hyndman, and a host of things rude and homely, perhaps, but priceless to those who appreciate to what scenes they must have been mute witnesses. Little is told of the early schools except indirectly. Yet they must have been fully up to the pioneer mark, for we find in following the life story of different pioneer families, the names of such early teachers as Elijah Robinson, Mary T. Smith, George W. Doane, G. W. Hutchell, and Miss Nancy Griswold who were thorough enough to turn out good teachers of their own training, as in the case of David, son of John R. Johnston. The intermediate history of school development need not be told. At the present date, Eel River is abreast of the times, with nine school houses, aggregating $16,000 in value, and a school year of 150 days taught. Recent school enumeration gives the township three hundred and fifty-one, while the school enrollment is two hundred and fifteen, with an average daily attendance of one hundred and seventy-seven pupils. Twenty-one pupils were graduated from the Eighth grade in 1916. The township and school library began the year with 884 volumes, to which were added 113 volumes during the year. Without going into detailed financial statement, three items may be included here, the year 1915-16 being taken as a basis: For teachers' salaries, $3,774.00; for general "upkeep" expenses, $809.94; cost of education per capita, $21.32. There are no high schools in the township, nor parochial schools.

Eel River settlers were characterized by a general and genuine observance of religion chiefly as expressed in the denominations represented in the church edifices which have dotted the district for many years. The Methodist Episcopal, the Wesleyan Methodist, the Baptist and the German Baptist, also the Church of God, have all had strong following, locally, the Wesleyan Chapel congregation growing out of a group formerly affiliated with the United Brethren, who have also arrived at the strength of an independent congregation. The Methodist Episcopal is the oldest organization in the township, dating from 1834.

Perry Township

Monarchs of all they surveyed were Charles Weeks and William Caswell for the first three years of their pioneership in the township of Perry. Be[illegible]ng to that early group of settlers who invaded

the forests of Adams township in 1823, their experience had made them bold enough to go farther still and to brave the lack of human society for the pursuit of the furred and feathered denizens of Perry. Both men were famous hunters, yet industrious axemen, and their farms were well cleared. Mr. Caswell, a Canadian, was perhaps the hardier and more aggressive of the two, but the team work of these friends was excellent. They were joined in 1833 by Thomas and Ephraim H. Dunten, and the latter's son, Horace F., with their families. The Duntens did not allow the underbrush to lie long in their path to pioneer prosperity. Horace built the first hewn log house the summer following his arrival, and Ephraim H. Dunten, Jr., who came in the fall, was but a few months later in building the first store room of the settlement, on a spot which is now a town lot in Huntertown. To this frame building he brought goods from Toledo, by way of canal as far as Fort Wayne, and thence to the woodland market place by wagon, thus establishing a business which endured far beyond real pioneer days, being carried on by his sons after him. The Lima road was opened about the same time, and as it immediately became a popular route for travel and pioneer traffic, this same Mr. Dunten set up a temporary tavern beside it, near the future village. Guests poured in, and the genial host found it necessary, within a few years, to build a more commodious hostelry. A brick kiln, set up about this time, seems to have been the only unsuccessful venture this man ever made. He fell a victim to the cholera epidemic in 1854. Thomas Dunten, the uncle, left a beautiful farm home in New York, and undertook the hardships of pioneer life in Indiana, in the hope of providing equally good fortunes for each of his children. He was a generous and self-sacrificing father and neighbor, bearing his share and more of the difficulties of the first few winters. At a time when the corn supply was so short that it became necessary to make a seven days' trip by ox-team to bring grain from settlements farther north, Mr. Dunten was the first to go, though it involved sleeping at night in the forest, as there was no other shelter by the way. His children were given the best education obtainable under the circumstances, and were capable of making the most of what they received. His daughter Lucinda afterward became a successful teacher in the county schools. She was a pupil in a school taught by Ebenezer Ayres, claimed to be the first term taught in Perry township. Mr. Dunten and wife were both born in Vermont. Horace F. Dunten, only twenty years of age when he entered his first forty acres, proceeded at once to enlarge his holdings by the labor of his hands, earning sixteen dollars per month at canal work, and ten dollars per month when canal work closed for the winters. A quiet, steadfast and industrious citizen, his services to the community may be estimated to some extent by the circumstance that of his ten children, eight became teachers. Thomas Dunten and Horace together selected the site of the cemetery near Huntertown. Toward the end of Horace Dunten's life he was known as the oldest living settler of the township, having survived all his generation. Dunten is still a very prominent name in Perry township.

Albert Wood was a settler of 1833, who married Miss Nancy Dunten, the daughter of Ephraim Dunten, sr., the year o[illegible]rival,



W. T. HUNTER.



JANE HUNTER.



RES. OF Wm T. HUNTER. *HUNTERTOWN, ALLEN CO. IND.*



RES. OF CHARLES F. BLEKE.
PERRY TP. ALLEN CO. IND.

ALVIN HALL.

Alvin Hall was born in New London, Conn., May 11, 1810. His parents gave him all the opportunities for an education that were afforded by the common schools, and they were well improved up to the time he was sixteen years of age, when he became possessed of the passion that appears to be implanted in every American's bosom—to "go West;" and he went as far as Ontario County in We[illegible] New York, where he remained about one year and a half, when he again mov[illegible] further West, this time to Huron County, Ohio. Here he settled down and learned the trade of a carpenter and joiner. On the 27th of November, 1832, he was united in marriage to Miss Betsey Miller, of Huron County.

He continued to work at his trade until December, 1840, when he and his wife took their little family and their household goods, and in two wagons started for Allen County, Ind. After a journey such as but few would care to make, through an almost trackless forest a part of the way, he reached Fort Wayne about Christmas. He owned a tract of land in Milan Township, in this county, and wanted to get to it. The water was so high in the Maumee at the ford, that his horses were compelled to swim in crossing the river. His family he had left on the south bank of the river, and he got them across in a canoe. Going a short distance north, he found an old acquaintance, and stayed with him all night. The next day, with the settlers on the north side of the Maumee to help him, he went to his land, and they cut down timber into logs and poles, with which they put up a cabin, and the second day after, he with his family moved into it. Here, with only one or two families within miles of him, without a road to go anywhere, surrounded by a dense forest, he commenced to carve a home out in the wilderness; and well he has succeeded. He lives to-day upon the same land he wrested from the forest. He had the misfortune to lose the partner of his toils, who was claimed by death September 14, 1847, leaving her husband and a family of small children to mourn her sad departure. This good couple were the parents of six children—Francis D., born December 12, 1833; Amherst S., born June 17, 1835; and Andrew J., born November 28, 1843 (all of whom are now deceased); those surviving are Mary Ann, born September 11, 1838; George, born February 25, 1840; and Melissa M., born December 3, 1841.

Mr. Hall married again on the 7th of January, 1848, this time selecting for his partner Miss Sylvia Heath, of this county. Their union has been blessed with five children—Margaret Roseltha, born August 22, 1850, since deceased; Franklin R., born November 13, 1854; Dora Bell, born March 31, 1858; Orpha, born March 26, 1866; and William T., born June 22, 1869.

Mr. Hall owns 100 acres of splendid land, nearly eighty of which is in an excellent state of cultivation. Politically, all his life he has acted with the Democratic party. Although not a politician, he has, nevertheless, filled a number of different offices in his township, and was elected Land Appraiser by the people of this county in 1876. He belongs to no church, but contributes freely to the support of all religious denominations that call upon him. Neither is he backward in promoting and sustaining beneficial public enterprises, as he sets a high estimate on everything that is truly reliable and surely honorable.

PERRY TOWNSHIP. Helms

BY L. H. NEWTON.

The history of this township begins with the year 1830, prior to which time no one had made any attempt to improve upon the natural condition of its territory, or clear away from its surface the veil which hid a vast store of natural wealth. Its forests remained untouched by the pioneer's ax, and the wild animals trod its labyrinths almost unmolested.

THE FIRST SETTLERS

who came to reside within its limits were Charles Weeks and William Caswell, wh[illegible]e in the year above named. Weeks was fond of the chase, and, alth[illegible]. he cleared a farm and proved himself a man of great industry, his gun was his most acceptable companion, and his cabin was well supplied with trophies of his successful pursuit of the game then so abundant. William Caswell was a native of Canada, and was of a hardy nature, great strength and endurance, and, although uneducated, was a man of some natural ability. He went to work with energy in his forest home, and, during the first winter of his residence in the county, cleared a tract of land from which he was enabled, during the following season, to raise a crop sufficient for his subsistence during the ensuing winter. Like his associate, Mr. Weeks, he took delight in hunting, and was often absent from home for several consecutive days in pursuit of deer and other game, to supply him with meat for the winter. He remained a number of years in the township, and was a man of some prominence in its early history. He subsequently removed to another locality, and nothing is now known of him. After the advent of Weeks and Caswell in the township, there were no further arrivals until the fall of 1833.

In that year, Thomas Dunten and his nephew, Horace F. Dunten, started from Jefferson County, N. Y., to find a Western home. There was little in this locality to prepossess them in its favor. They were confronted by dense forests, and severe labor and trials stared them in the face; but, beyond this, their acute foresight discerned a rich reward for such labor, and their decision was made. They purchased land, and began at once the erection of a cabin for shelter. Soon they began the work of clearing the land, and, in due time, were enabled to raise sufficient for the satisfaction of their immediate necessities. Thomas Dunten remained in the township until his decease, and, during that time, was largely interested in its growth and development. Horace F. Dunten was, at the time of his arrival, a young man of twenty years, and gave to his work the zest and enthusiasm of early manhood. His subsequent life has been passed in the township, and now, at a ripe old age, he enjoys the fruits of his labors and a competence well earned. He still resides on Section 17, on the farm cleared by his own hand. Late in the fall of 1833, Ephraim H. Dunten, Sr., joined his son, Horace F., and settled on the same section. He also cleared a farm, and remained in the township until death ended his labors. He was accompanied by his son George, who assisted him to "make" his farm, and is now a prosperous farmer himself. Alb[illegible] Wood came with Mr. Dunten, in the fall of 1833, and continued to reside up[illegible] farm until his decease, in 1878. Nathaniel Fitch, an unmarried man, came from Pennsylvania in the same year, and, after clearing a farm, married Miss Sarah De Long and reared a large family, several of whom are now living in the township. He was a man of great natural ability, and was highly esteemed by his neighbors. He was a blacksmith, and conducted that trade in connection with farming. A long life of labor and industry brought him a rich return, and made him the possessor of a fine fortune. He remained in the township until his death, which occurred in January, 1878.

Benjamin and Amasiah Parker came from Jefferson County, N. Y., in the spring of 1834, and were prominent movers in many of the public improvements subsequently inaugurated in the township. In the same season, Ephraim H. Dunten, Jr., located near the present site of Huntertown, where he erected a building in which he kept the first tavern in the township. Subsequently, he removed to Fort Wayne, where he was engaged in business for a short time. Returning to Perry Township, he made it his home until 1854, when he fell a victim to cholera, and died.

Jason Hatch came from Pennsylvania in 1834, and settled on Cedar Creek, where he erected a saw-mill. He settled on the farm now owned by Thomas Wilkinson, and cleared a large tract of land, besides superintending the mill. He was a man who speedily won his way to the hearts of his fellow-citizens, and was repeatedly called upon to fill local offices. He remained in the township until death.

Philemon Rundels came in 1834, and cleared a farm near the Coldwater road, where he resided until death. His life was marked by industry, and he accumulated a fine estate. He was a man of ability, and served as Justice of the Peace in the township.

George Simon came from Columbiana County, Ohio, in October, 1836, and settled on the farm now occupied by his son, Solomon Simon. He remained in the township until death.

William T. Hunter came in 1837, and purchased the tract of land upon which the village of Huntertown is now located. He has done much toward the improvement of the township, and is universally respected by his neighbors. He now resides at Huntertown.

Rapion Andrews came in 1837, and cleared a farm, which he cultivated until called from his labors by death. Schuyler Wheeler came from the State of New York in the same year. He was well educated, and soon rose to a position of prominence among his neighbors. In 1858, he was elected by the Democrats of the district to represent them in the State Legislature. He gained many friends, and was always held in high esteem.

Jacob and George Kell came in 1837, and still reside in the township. Their labors have been crowned with success, and they are among the substantial farmers of the township.

George, Samuel, Henry and John Bowser came in 1837. After that date, new arrivals were so frequent that it is impossible to give a complete list of names. Among the number, however, may be mentioned Thomas Tucker, James Thompson, James Van Dolah, Jacob Hillegass, Vachel Metcalf, George Gloyd, L. Gloyd, Jas. Tucker, Dr. E. G. Wheelock, August Martin and Saml. Shryock.

At the September session of the Board of County Commissioners, in 1835, the township was organized, in response to a petition presented by its residents. Its boundaries comprised "all of Town 32 north, Range 12 east, and the east half of Town 32 north, Range 11 east, together with the territory north of said township, within Allen County." The Sheriff was then ordered to advertise an election for two Justices of the Peace and two Constables.

THE FIRST ELECTION.

Pursuant to the order, the qualified voters of the township met at the house of William Caswell, on the second Saturday in October, 1835. William Caswell was appointed Inspector by the Board of County Commissioners. The election resulted in the choice of Jason Hatch and William Caswell, Justices of the Peace, and Lewis Hammon, Constable.

THE FIRST HOUSES.

All the earlier settlers of the township lived in cabins, hastily constructed from the round timber, as it was felled from the forest, and only used as

ALVIN HALL.

Alvin Hall was born in New London, Conn., May 11, 1810. His parents gave him all the opportunities for an education that were afforded by the common schools, and they were well improved up to the time he was sixteen years of age, when he became possessed of the passion that appears to be implanted in every American's bosom—to "go West;" and he went as far as Ontario County in We[illegible] New York, where he remained about one year and a half, when he again mov[illegible] further West, this time to Huron County, Ohio. Here he settled down and learned the trade of a carpenter and joiner. On the 27th of November, 1832, he was united in marriage to Miss Betsey Miller, of Huron County.

He continued to work at his trade until December, 1840, when he and his wife took their little family and their household goods, and in two wagons started for Allen County, Ind. After a journey such as but few would care to make, through an almost trackless forest a part of the way, he reached Fort Wayne about Christmas. He owned a tract of land in Milan Township, in this county, and wanted to get to it. The water was so high in the Maumee at the ford, that his horses were compelled to swim in crossing the river. His family he had left on the south bank of the river, and he got them across in a canoe. Going a short distance north, he found an old acquaintance, and stayed with him all night. The next day, with the settlers on the north side of the Maumee to help him, he went to his land, and they cut down timber into logs and poles, with which they put up a cabin, and the second day after, he with his family moved into it. Here, with only one or two families within miles of him, without a road to go anywhere, surrounded by a dense forest, he commenced to carve a home out in the wilderness; and well he has succeeded. He lives to-day upon the same land he wrested from the forest. He had the misfortune to lose the partner of his toils, who was claimed by death September 14, 1847, leaving her husband and a family of small children to mourn her sad departure. This good couple were the parents of six children—Francis D., born December 12, 1833; Amherst S., born June 17, 1835; and Andrew J., born November 28, 1843 (all of whom are now deceased); those surviving are Mary Ann, born September 11, 1838; George, born February 25, 1840; and Melissa M., born December 3, 1841.

Mr. Hall married again on the 7th of January, 1848, this time selecting for his partner Miss Sylvia Heath, of this county. Their union has been blessed with five children—Margaret Roseltha, born August 22, 1850, since deceased; Franklin R., born November 13, 1854; Dora Bell, born March 31, 1858; Orpha, born March 26, 1866; and William T., born June 22, 1869.

Mr. Hall owns 100 acres of splendid land, nearly eighty of which is in an excellent state of cultivation. Politically, all his life he has acted with the Democratic party. Although not a politician, he has, nevertheless, filled a number of different offices in his township, and was elected Land Appraiser by the people of this county in 1876. He belongs to no church, but contributes freely to the support of all religious denominations that call upon him. Neither is he backward in promoting and sustaining beneficial public enterprises, as he sets a high estimate on everything that is truly reliable and surely honorable.

PERRY TOWNSHIP.

BY L. H. NEWTON.

The history of this township begins with the year 1830, prior to which time no one had made any attempt to improve upon the natural condition of its territory, or clear away from its surface the veil which hid a vast store of natural wealth. Its forests remained untouched by the pioneer's ax, and the wild animals trod its labyrinths almost unmolested.

THE FIRST SETTLERS

who came to reside within its limits were Charles Weeks and William Caswell, wh[illegible]e in the year above named. Weeks was fond of the chase, and, alt[illegible] he cleared a farm and proved himself a man of great industry, his gun was his most acceptable companion, and his cabin was well supplied with trophies of his successful pursuit of the game then so abundant. William Caswell was a native of Canada, and was of a hardy nature, great strength and endurance, and, although uneducated, was a man of some natural ability. He went to work with energy in his forest home, and, during the first winter of his residence in the county, cleared a tract of land from which he was enabled, during the following season, to raise a crop sufficient for his subsistence during the ensuing winter. Like his associate, Mr. Weeks, he took delight in hunting, and was often absent from home for several consecutive days in pursuit of deer and other game, to supply him with meat for the winter. He remained a number of years in the township, and was a man of some prominence in its early history. He subsequently removed to another locality, and nothing is now known of him. After the advent of Weeks and Caswell in the township, there were no further arrivals until the fall of 1833.

In that year, Thomas Dunten and his nephew, Horace F. Dunten, started from Jefferson County, N. Y., to find a Western home. There was little in this locality to prepossess them in its favor. They were confronted by dense forests, and severe labor and trials stared them in the face; but, beyond this, their acute foresight discerned a rich reward for such labor, and their decision was made. They purchased land, and began at once the erection of a cabin for shelter. Soon they began the work of clearing the land, and, in due time, were enabled to raise sufficient for the satisfaction of their immediate necessities. Thomas Dunten remained in the township until his decease, and, during that time, was largely interested in its growth and development. Horace F. Dunten was, at the time of his arrival, a young man of twenty years, and gave to his work the zest and enthusiasm of early manhood. His subsequent life has been passed in the township, and now, at a ripe old age, he enjoys the fruits of his labors and a competence well earned. He still resides on Section 17, on the farm cleared by his own hand. Late in the fall of 1833, Ephraim H. Dunten, Sr., joined his son, Horace F., and settled on the same section. He also cleared a farm, and remained in the township until death ended his labors. He was accompanied by his son George, who assisted him to "make" his farm, and is now a prosperous farmer himself. Alb[illegible] Wood came with Mr. Dunten, in the fall of 1833, and continued to reside up[illegible] farm until his decease, in 1878. Nathaniel Fitch, an unmarried man, cam[illegible] from Pennsylvania in the same year, and, after clearing a farm, married Miss Sarah De Long and reared a large family, several of whom are now living in the township. He was a man of great natural ability, and was highly esteemed by his neighbors. He was a blacksmith, and conducted that trade in connection with farming. A long life of labor and industry brought him a rich return, and made him the possessor of a fine fortune. He remained in the township until his death, which occurred in January, 1878.

Benjamin and Amasiah Parker came from Jefferson County, N. Y., in the spring of 1834, and were prominent movers in many of the public improvements subsequently inaugurated in the township. In the same season, Ephraim H. Dunten, Jr., located near the present site of Huntertown, where he erected a building in which he kept the first tavern in the township. Subsequently, he removed to Fort Wayne, where he was engaged in business for a short time. Returning to Perry Township, he made it his home until 1854, when he fell a victim to cholera, and died.

Jason Hatch came from Pennsylvania in 1834, and settled on Cedar Creek, where he erected a saw-mill. He settled on the farm now owned by Thomas Wilkinson, and cleared a large tract of land, besides superintending the mill. He was a man who speedily won his way to the hearts of his fellow-citizens, and was repeatedly called upon to fill local offices. He remained in the township until death.

Philemon Rundels came in 1834, and cleared a farm near the Coldwater road, where he resided until death. His life was marked by industry, and he accumulated a fine estate. He was a man of ability, and served as Justice of the Peace in the township.

George Simon came from Columbiana County, Ohio, in October, 1836, and settled on the farm now occupied by his son, Solomon Simon. He remained in the township until death.

William T. Hunter came in 1837, and purchased the tract of land upon which the village of Huntertown is now located. He has done much toward the improvement of the township, and is universally respected by his neighbors. He now resides at Huntertown.

Rapion Andrews came in 1837, and cleared a farm, which he cultivated until called from his labors by death. Schuyler Wheeler came from the State of New York in the same year. He was well educated, and soon rose to a position of prominence among his neighbors. In 1858, he was elected by the Democrats of the district to represent them in the State Legislature. He gained many friends, and was always held in high esteem.

Jacob and George Kell came in 1837, and still reside in the township. Their labors have been crowned with success, and they are among the substantial farmers of the township.

George, Samuel, Henry and John Bowser came in 1837. After that date, new arrivals were so frequent that it is impossible to give a complete list of names. Among the number, however, may be mentioned Thomas Tucker, James Thompson, James Van Dolah, Jacob Hillegass, Vachel Metcalf, George Gloyd, L. Gloyd, Jas. Tucker, Dr. E. G. Wheelock, August Martin and Saml. Shryock.

At the September session of the Board of County Commissioners, in 1835, the township was organized, in response to a petition presented by its residents. Its boundaries comprised "all of Town 32 north, Range 12 east, and the east half of Town 32 north, Range 11 east, together with the territory north of said township, within Allen County." The Sheriff was then ordered to advertise an election for two Justices of the Peace and two Constables.

THE FIRST ELECTION.

Pursuant to the order, the qualified voters of the township met at the house of William Caswell, on the second Saturday in October, 1835. William Caswell was appointed Inspector by the Board of County Commissioners. The election resulted in the choice of Jason Hatch and William Caswell, Justices of the Peace, and Lewis Hammon, Constable.

THE FIRST HOUSES.

All the earlier settlers of the township lived in cabins, hastily constructed from the round timber, as it was felled from the forest, and only used as

temporary abodes until logs could be hewed to make more comfortable dwellings. The first hewed-log house was erected by Horace F. Dunten in 1834, and was speedily followed by others of a similar character. Shortly after its erection (perhaps in the same year), Ephraim H. Dunten, Jr., erected a frame storeroom on the lot now owned by N. V. Hatch, at Huntertown, in which he kept the first store in the township. In this building, he continued to sell goods during his life, and, after his decease, the store was conducted by his sons, until quite recently. His goods were purchased at Toledo, Ohio, and brought to Fort Wayne, via the W. & E. Canal. From this point they were conveyed to their destination in wagons.

The First Tavern was kept by Ephraim H. Dunten, in a building at the north end of Huntertown, on the Lima road. It was on the great highway between Fort Wayne and English Prairie, and was well patronized by emigrants en route for that region, as well as by numerous teamsters engaged in conveying goods from Fort Wayne to the prairies. He was a genial host, and made his house popular with the traveling community, and was rarely without as many guests as he could accommodate. Several years later, he erected a more commodious building at the south end of Huntertown.

The First Mill.—In 1834, Blair & Wines built a saw-mill on Cedar Creek, to which they subsequently added a "corn-cracker." The stones used for this purpose were about eighteen inches in diameter, and worked in an upright position. It ground very coarsely, merely cracking the kernels. It was a very primitive affair, and of little good to its proprietors or the settlement. The saw-mill, however, was a good investment, and yielded its proprietors a fair revenue. Samuel Shryock purchased the mill in 1836, and sent to Dayton, Ohio, for a run of buhrs. He made it a merchant mill, and established a good trade. In 1851 or 1852, Mr. Shryock sold it to John Stoner, by whom it was operated a number of years, and was then sold to George Kell, its present proprietor.

The First Blacksmiths.—In 1837, Nathaniel Fitch started the fires of his forge, and, later in the same year, James Vandergrift opened a shop in another part of the township. Both were engaged in the manufacture of plow-points and steel traps.

The First Physician.—Dr. E. G. Wheelock came from New York in 1837, and for many years was a practicing physician in the township. He now resides at Leo, in this county.

The First Orchards.—In 1834, Thomas Dunten set out the first orchard in the township, and in the following season, Horace F. Dunten set out the second, on the farm now owned by N. V. Hatch, at Huntertown. Both orchards are now in fine condition and bear fruit.

The First Road was surveyed through the township in 1835, from Fort Wayne to Union Mill on English Prairie. In 1848 or 1849, it was made a plank road, and a large amount of toll was collected annually by its projectors. A line of stage-coaches was established and traversed its length at regular intervals, and through this road a large timber trade found access to the markets. After the construction of railroads through the county it was no longer a thoroughfare of importance, and the planks were suffered to go to decay, and finally removed. Other roads were constructed later in various portions of the township, which is now well supplied with all the necessary channels of transportation for its products.

The First White Child.—Mary J. Wood was the first white child born in the township. After reaching maturity, she married James O. Beardsley, Esq., now deceased, and at present resides at Huntertown.

The First Marriage.—In 1836, Nathaniel Fitch and Miss Sarah De Long were married at the residence of the bride's parents. This was the first marriage solemnized in the township. In the same year, Horace F. Dunten was united in marriage with Miss Almena Timmerman, in Swan Township, Noble County, Ind., and at the same time, Hiram L. Parker, a resident of Perry Township, married Miss Sarah Rickard, in the same township and county. Robert Blair and Miss Lucy Dunten, residents of Perry Township, were married in the same year.

The First Cemetery was purchased from a Mr. Blair by residents of the township, in 1834, and is still used as a place of interment. Its first occupant was a Mr. Valentine, who was drowned in Cedar Creek in 1834. In the same year, E. R. Burk died, and his remains were consigned to rest in the same place. The cemetery is located one mile east of Huntertown, on Section 16.

The First Brick Kiln was burned in 1837, by Ephraim H. Dunten, Sr., but it was not a lucrative business, and he did not continue it long.

The First Post Office was established in 1836, at the house of Charles Wicks. Mr. Wicks was appointed Postmaster, and held the position two or three years. He then resigned, and was succeeded by Mr. Jones, who had formerly served as his assistant, and the office continued to be kept at the house of Mr. Wicks until 1840. In that year, William T. Hunter was appointed Postmaster, and the office was removed to his house.

The First School was taught by Eliza Parker, in 1835, a log cabin, on Section 6. The tuition fund was contributed by residents of the township, whose children attended the school, and it was the place where some of the best farmers of the township received their education. It was greatly in advance of the subscription schools of that period; its teacher was a lady who had acquired a good education in the East, and its scholars were led beyond the ordinary routine of reading, writing and elementary arithmetic. Among its surviving pupils are Danford, Omri, Suel Parker, Lucinda Dunten and Malinda Hunter. Lucinda Dunten subsequently became a teacher, and in this capacity was identified with the schools of the township for a number of years.

In 1837, the second school was taught by Matthew Montgomery, in a cabin on Section 8. Its teacher was a man of great natural ability, and had received a fine education. He won golden opinions as a school teacher, and became a prominent man in the township. In 1846, he was the Whig candidate for State Representative, but was defeated by Hon. Peter Kiser. He died while yet a young man. An improvement was made in the system of education, with the introduction of public schools, of which there are now nine in the township, having a total enrollment of 446 scholars.

PERRY CENTER SEMINARY.

In 1856, Nathaniel Fitch, Jacob Kell and George Gloyd, incorporated the seminary known by this name. They were moved by a laudable desire to establish in this township a first-class institution of learning, and, with that end in view, erected near the center of the township a large frame building; and, in the winter of that year, secured the services of Prof. T. W. Tilden, as teacher. In 1860, it was divided into three departments or grades, and Prof. Tilden retained as Principal, with two able assistants in the other grades. Its pupils came from Noble, De Kalb, Allen, La Grange and other counties in this State. The course was academic, including the languages, higher mathematics, philosophy, astronomy, etc., etc.

It was a prosperous institution until 1862 or 1863. Then a number of its pupils enlisted in the army, and its Principal, Prof. Tilden, resigned his position. It never rallied or regained its reputation, and the building is now a ruin. Many of its pupils now occupy prominent mercantile and professional positions in Allen and other counties. Among this number may be mentioned John Stahl, attorney at law (now deceased); Josiah Hillegass, attorney at law, also deceased (both occupied high positions at the bar of this county); Jerry Hillegass, Superintendent of Schools of Allen County; Dr. S. C. Metcalf, a prominent physician of Fort Wayne, and Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Fort Wayne College of Medicine; Dr. E. G. Wheelock, Jr., now practicing medicine at Leo, Ind., was elected Professor of Materia Medica in the Fort Wayne College, in which capacity he now acts; John Deal, now a resident of Iowa, has served one of the counties of that State in the capacity of County Clerk; Charles Fitch, a resident of the same State, is a Deputy Sheriff; Jerome D. Gloyd, now Trustee of Perry Township; William and Albert Gloyd, now merchants at Effingham, Ill; William McQuiston, merchant at Auburn, Ind.; Wilson McQuiston, now editor of the Fort Wayne *Enterprise;* George W. Hush, Superintendent of Public Schools in one of the counties of California; Dr. Dills, now a practicing physician in the city of Fort Wayne; Hiram Myers, now Superintendent of Schools in one of the Eastern States; and Miss Jennie Fitch, Professor of Latin and Greek, at Logansport, Ind.

CHURCHES.

The first religious meeting was held at the house of Horace F. Dunten in 1834, by Mr. Nickerson, an exhorter of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Several weeks later, a meeting was held in a cabin near the present site of Huntertown, at which time services were conducted by Rev. Rankin, a Presbyterian minister from Fort Wayne. There were no religious organizations in the township at that time. Services were held at irregular intervals by ministers of various denominations, and were attended by all.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was the first church organized in the township. Its members, six in number, met at the house of James Thompson in 1836, and, under the ministration of Rev. Ball, of Fort Wayne, organized a class, from which grew the Methodist Episcopal Church at Huntertown. Meetings were held at James Thompson's house for two years, after which the Caswell Schoolhouse became the place of meeting. The society was always supplied with a minister from Fort Wayne.

In 1846, they erected their present house of worship at Huntertown. It is a frame building, 30x40 feet, and cost $1,500. After its completion, Rev. Jesse Sparks was chosen and installed as Pastor, and served in that capacity until transferred to another charge by Conference. The labors of their Pastors have been attended with successful results, and the Church is now in a prosperous condition. Rev. D. P. Hartman is the present Pastor.

Robinson Chapel.—In 1851, Andrew Byers donated a tract of land to the Methodist Episcopal denomination to be used as a cemetery, and also as the site for a church of that denomination. The society was organized in the preceding year, and held meetings at the schoolhouse until 1852. In that year, they erected a frame church on the land donated by Mr. Byers. It was dedicated by Prof Robinson for whom it was named. Rev. Ira M. Wolverton is the present Pastor.

The Universalist Church at Huntertown was organized at the house of Dr. D. Vanderhyden in 1850, with seventeen constituent members. William Chaplin, of Kosciusko County, Ind., was the officiating Pastor on this occasion, and visited the congregation at irregular intervals for several years succeeding that date.

In 1851, they erected their present house of worship at Huntertown, at a cost of $1,500. It was dedicated by Mr. Chaplin, who, in 1855, was engaged as Pastor. He served as such for a term of one year, and was succeeded by J. Merrifield; and in the interim between that time and the present, the following pastors have had charge of the Church: Rev. Rayhouser, Rev. Spooner, Rev. S. F. Gibb, William Stewart and John P. Chaplin. Since the close of Mr. Chaplin's pastorate, the Church has been served by Rev. M. Crosley, of Fort Wayne. It now has a membership of sixty-three.

The Sunday school was organized in 1863, with fully one hundred scholars. Of this number many were the children of parents belonging to other denominations, and it was conducted as a union school. Several years later, the Methodist Episcopal Sunday school was organized, and the withdrawal from the union school of the Methodist children lessened its numbers fully fifty per cent. It was continued under the superintendence of Benjamin Morris, and has since been maintained as a school of the church. It is now in a prosperous condition, having sixty scholars enrolled. John Malcolm is the present Superintendent.

THE VILLAGE OF HUNTERTOWN.

After the completion of the Coldwater road, from Fort Wayne to English Prairie, a number of settlers built their houses near what was regarded as the great highway, and William Hunter purchased a tract of land adjacent thereto; and although no town plat existed, and no lots had been sold, it received the name of Huntertown, which it has since borne. The first sale of town lots was effected in 1872, after the completion of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad. The following are business men of the village: J. C. Hunter, dry goods, groceries and general merchandise; J. E. Ballou, grocery and saloon; F. B. Bacon, drugs; J. D. Sechler, grocery; R. S. Ferrand, Postmaster. Physicians: Dr. Charles Orvis and Dr. Frank Greenwell.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

Henry King Lodge, No. 382, A., F. & A. M.—On the 29th day of February, 1868, a petition was signed by T. M. Andrews, S. A. Thornton, J. O. Beardsley, Ira A. Wert, F. C. Wert, H. F. Boynton, Thomas Vandolah, Henry King, James W. Fleming, Corwin Phelps, David McQuiston, F. C. Bacon, John Anderson, William Ross, and William Anderson. The petition was sent to Harvey G. Hardrig, G. M., of Indiana, and on the 28th day of March following, the petitioners received a dispensation to organize a lodge, to be known as Henry King Lodge, 382, naming T. M. Andrews, W. M.; S. A. Thornton, S. W., and J. O. Beardley, J. W. The remaining officers were appointed by the W. M., and were as follows: Henry King, Treasurer; F. C. Bacon, Secretary; F. C. Wert, S. D.; C. Phelps, J. D.; D. McQuiston, Tiler.

June 18, 1869, the Lodge received a charter (dated May 25, 1869), and was duly constituted by Solomon D. Bayless, P. G. M., and proxy for M. H. Rice, G. M. June 14, 1869, the Lodge held its first election, which resulted in the choice of the following officers: T. M. Andrews, W. M.; G. W. Hand, S. W.; W. W. Shoaff, J. W.; J. O. Beardsley, Treasurer; F. C. Bacon, Secretary; J. Shryock, S. D.; B. Morris, J. D.; William S. Fleming and N. Fitsimmon, Stewards; M. N. Dunton, Tiler. These officers were publicly installed June 24, 1869, by P. G. M. Solomon D. Bayless, and an address delivered by J. Stoner.

The lodge meetings were held in the upper story of F. C. Bacon's dwelling, at Huntertown, until November 13, 1869, when they were removed to a new and commodious hall on the opposite side of the street, which was dedicated to Masonry on the evening of that day, by P. G. M. Solomon D. Bayless, assisted by members of neighboring Lodges. On that occasion the wives and sisters of the members presented the Lodge with a beautiful chandelier, and a very fine Bible was presented by P. G. M. Solomon D. Bayless, in behalf of the brethren at Fort Wayne. The Lodge and its visitors then adjourned to the banquet prepared for them at the hotel.

The Lodge is now in good working order, and financially prosperous. The officers for 1879 are as follows: S. A. Thornton, W. M.; J. Sickler, S. W.; W. W. Shoaff, Treasurer; J. Shryock, Secretary; E. Sickler, S. D.; W. I. Work, J. D.; A. Watters and D. Baird, Stewards; W. Carey, Tiler. (Data furnished by T. M. Andrews.)

WILLIAM T. HUNTER, Esq.,

is of English parentage. England, too, is his own native land. He was born April 9, 1802, in the shire of Cumberland. Emigrating to America in 1828, he landed in the city of Boston on August 12. Not yet content, the following summer he passed on to the city of New York, where, after remaining until the autumn of 1832, he returned to England.

A few pleasant months rolled quickly by, and he was ready to re-embark for American shores. He reached New York during the spring of 1833, accompanied, this time, by a number of his fellow-countrymen. After a sojourn of about one more year, he removed to Ann Arbor, Mich, then quite a tiny village. Here residing about two years, he married Mrs. Jane Buckingham, and then removed to St. Joseph County, of the same State; this was in 1836. He here purchased land and began to clear and improve; but his stay, in a measure, was only temporary, for in 1837, he removed to Allen County, Ind., settling in Perry Township, near the present village of Huntertown. Another purchase of wild land was made, and again, for a short time, he began the task of subduing the forest.

A little time, however, and he changed his vocation to that of hotel-keeping. At this, too, he was successful, and yet his attention and interests were not exclusively given to private affairs. Being a resolute man, and one deprecating villainy and wrong, he became an active member of the association termed the "Regulators"—during the days of that organization—whose purpose it was to rid Allen and adjoining counties of a troublesome band of horse-thieves and counterfeiters. In this work he was very earnest, and did his full share in helping to bring to punishment these enemies of law and good society.

During the gold excitement of 1852, he went to California, where, for three years, he was engaged at mining and other pursuits. On his return, he renewed the pursuit of agriculture, with which, up to the present, he has been more or less connected. He has, likewise, been identified with many enterprises conducive to building up and improving the village of which he is a resident.

Mrs. Hunter was the daughter of Robert and Margaret Ranney, of Sheffield, Berkshire Co., Mass., and was born November 24, 1815. She emigrated with her parents to Monroe County, N. Y., in 1830. She was here married in 1833, to John Buckingham, by whom she had one child; being left a widow by his death, in 1835. Since becoming the consort of Mr. Hunter, they have been blessed with seven children, six of them still survive, and are engaged at various pursuits. Mrs. Hunter, ever a sympathizing neighbor, is always ready to assist those in trouble or distress, even to the extent of much inconvenience and injustice to herself. She has ever proven a most exemplary wife and affectionate mother, whose ceaseless devotion and care seems never to weigh as a burthen.

Mr. Hunter, ever conscientious and upright, is always willing to grant to others what he claims for himself—honesty of motive, in disagreements or differences of opinion.

An obliging neighbor, a fond parent, and doting husband; with his venerable companion, they are greatly esteemed among their extended circle of friends and acquaintances.

HILLEGASS FAMILY.

Among the noble families—that are noble in the sense of industry, integrity and intelligence, and also as one of the pioneer families of the county—the Hillegasses rank high. Michael Hillegass, the ancestor, was a farmer and a native of Pennsylvania. He married Miss Anna Yeakel, of the same State, and the result of this union was thirteen children, eight of whom are now living. Jacob, the youngest of the five brothers, married Miss Lucy A. Powell. Her father, John Powell, married Miss Barbara Shaffer, both natives of Pennsylvania, and to them were born eight children, seven of whom are now living; Lucy A. being the second member of the family.

Jacob Hillegass was born on the 7th day of February, 1818, in Montgomery County, Ohio, and his wife, Lucy A., was born on the 28th day of July, 1822, in Schuylkill County, Penn. They were married on the 26th day of May, 1841, in Butler County, Ohio, and the result of the alliance was seven children, four sons and three daughters. We give the names in the order of their births as follows, viz., Josiah D., Jerry, Hezekiah, Isaiah J., Sarah J., Mary M. and Lucy I.

Jacob Hillegass, the head of this family, came to this county April 14, 1843, and located at Huntertown, where he has ever since resided. For several years, he was engaged in the tanning business, which he finally abandoned so as to devote his time fully to the quiet pursuit of farming. He owns a very large and beautiful farm of the most productive soil, which, in fact, is one of the finest that can be found. It lies between the stations on the Grand Rapids and Fort Wayne, Jackson & Saginaw Railroads, and the homestead is situated mid-way on an eminence, from which can be seen the trains passing to and fro. On this farm the children have grown up, and, having in early years cultivated the spirit of industry, and ambition in an intellectual view, they have, with one exception, naturally abandoned the farm.

Jacob Hillegass has held several positions of importance, the last was the office of County Commissioner, to which place he was first elected in October, 1869, and re-elected three years later, serving in that capacity for six years.

It was during this time that he became very noted among his constituents, as a man of energy, much decision of character and of the most unflinching integrity.

He is a Democrat, and the whole family have imbibed his political principles. He and his wife have been for many years members of the Presbyterian Church.

J. D. Hillegass, the oldest son, was a graduate of the law class of 1870 of the University of Michigan. After having received his diploma, he entered the law office of Judge Morris. In his professional life, he was associated with John Stahl, his brother-in-law, under the firm name of Stahl & Hillegass. He died on April 2, 1875, and his death was the first that entered this happy family circle. As a man, his sterling integrity and blameless life won for him the love and admiration of his friends, while he commanded the respect of all. As a lawyer, his thorough knowledge of the law and his unquestionable business capacity drew to him many clients.

Jerry Hillegass graduated in the Literary Department of the University of Michigan, and has had conferred on him by that institution both the degrees of Bachelor and Master of Arts. He has been Superintendent of the County for the last six years, and is universally known and admired. A more extended sketch of him can be found elsewhere in this work.

Hezekiah Hillegass was married, December 25, 1871, to Miss Ella Work, and the fruits of that union are two children. He is actively engaged in agricultural pursuits, and is regarded as an honorable citizen.

Miss Sarah J. Hillegass was married, May 30, 1872, to John Stahl, and by their marriage had three children. She acquired her education in Fort Wayne, being a graduate of the high school of the same place. Her husband, John Stahl, was a graduate of the law class of the Univerity of Michigan of 1869. He was a partner of her brother, and died August 16, 1878. He was an able advocate and his character was unimpeachable.

The Misses Mary and Lucy Hillegass are amiable and highly esteemed ladies. Isaiah J. Hillegass, a member of the Law Department of the University of Michigan, is an intelligent and promising young man.

The school days of their parents were somewhat limited, as was the custom in earlier times, but they have been true promoters of education and general progress, and have acted their part nobly in life's great drama.

VACHEL METCALF.

Edward Metcalf was one of the pioneers of Ashland County, Ohio, his family having figured conspicuously in the early history of that county.

His son Vachel, for whom this sketch was prepared, was born in said county September 20, 1816. In the year 1842, he wedded Miss Amanda Otto, and in 1849, emigrated to Allen County, Ind., settling upon an uncleared farm, in Perry Township, the same he still occupies.

Mr. Metcalf, in politics, has always been strongly biased in favor of Democracy. Has always been earnest in promulgating the doctrines of his party, and vigilant in helping to promote its success.

Two sons, Martin V. and Samuel C., yet survive. The former is farming near his father's in Perry Township, and the latter is a practicing physician at Fort Wayne. Both are now married.

In the group of old settlers from Perry Township, represented upon a page in this work, may be found the subject of this sketch, the same having been contributed by his son, Dr. Samuel C.

EEL RIVER TOWNSHIP.

LOCATION AND BOUNDARY.

Eel River is the northwestern township of Allen County, and comprises Congressional Township 32 north, of Range 11 east. It is bounded on the north by Noble County, east by Perry Township, south by Washington and Lake Townships, west by Whitley County, and has an area of 35.16 square miles.

NATURAL FEATURES.

The soil is clay, intermixed with sand, black loam and peat. It is watered by Eel River, which flows through the southern part of the township; Blue Grass Creek, which has its source in the northwestern part, and flows south, joining Eel River near Heller's Corners; and Willow Creek, which flows through the northeast corner, joining Cedar Creek in Perry Township.

The township was originally covered with a heavy growth of timber, embracing in its variety, white oak, burr oak, walnut, ash, beech, elm, poplar, hickory, etc.

EARLY SETTLEMENT.

In 1828, Joseph Crow, Wm. Kellison and —— Kellison, from Darke County, Ohio, settled on Section 32—the present site of the Geeseking farm. Here they erected cabins and cleared small portions of land. They remained but a few years, finally removing farther west.

Adam Hull, Sr., from Shelby County, Ohio, came to the township in December, 1830, and purchased the land of William Kellison, upon which there was a log cabin. The tract contained forty acres, and it was thought the cabin was within the boundary line of that farm; but when an accurate survey was made, Mr Hull found that he was living "beyond the lines," and accordingly purchased the forty-acre tract adjoining his own.

In 1834, Joseph Johnston and John R. Johnston, natives of Ohio, settled on Sections 21 and 28, respectively.

In June, 1835, John Valentine came from Ohio, and settled on Section 33, where his son, Jackson, now resides. The father resided in the township until his death; his wife survives him, and now lives on the old homestead with her son.

On the 6th of February, 1836, John P. Shoaff came from Miami County, Ohio, and settled on Section 13, where he still resides. A few weeks subsequent to his arrival, F. C. Freeman, Samuel Hillegass, Samuel Shryock, Benjamin Mason, Joseph Jones, William F. Mooney, Henry Bosler and Samuel Kniss, settled in the eastern part of the township. In September of the same year, Abram Taylor, from Cuyahoga County, Ohio, settled on Section 29, where he resided until death. The farm is now owned by his son, John M. Taylor, the present Treasurer of Allen County. Later in the same year (1836), George Greenwell and William Anderson settled in the eastern part of the township.

Between 1837 and 1840, came R. D. Baird, Solomon Bennett, John Bennett, William Bennett, Caleb Bennett, John McKee, Stephen Hathaway, —— Shilling, John R. Mayo and William Madden.

EARLY EVENTS.

The First Road.—In 1834, Adam Hull, assisted by some neighbors, cut a road from Heller's Corners to the east line of the township. It was never "viewed," and was located at random, and later surveys have caused its course to be so often changed that few traces of it now remain.

The First Death.—Late in the fall of 1832, a stranger, traveling on foot, sought the house of Adam Hull, and asked for lodging and food. He was taken in, and, during the night, he arose from his bed and walked toward the door, where he was seized with convulsions and died the next morning.

A few weeks subsequently, a family of emigrants by the name of Fosdick, stopped for the night with Mr. Hull, and it was ascertained that several of their children were suffering with scarlet fever. During the night, one child died, and, two days later, was followed by another. These children and the stranger previously alluded to, were buried on the south side of Eel River, in ground which was afterward consecrated for cemetery purposes.

The First Marriage.—About Christmas season, 1833, Squire Du Bois was called from Fort Wayne to perform the ceremony of uniting two young hearts in the sacred ties of matrimony. The wedding took place at the residence of Adam Hull, his daughter Barbara and Isaac Tibbets being the contracting parties.

The First School was taught in a cabin erected for that purpose in 1837, on the farm now owned by John R. Mayo. It was built almost entirely of hickory logs, and from this fact received the appellation of the "Hickory Schoolhouse." Among its surviving scholars are Thomas and William McKee, John M. Taylor and his sister, Mrs. Altha Hull.

The First Stock of Merchandise was opened in 1838, by Joseph J[illegible] at his own house, on the land now known as the Charles Hanna farm.

The First Blacksmith-Shop was conducted by Henry Bosler, who started the fires of his forge soon after his arrival in the township (1836).

The First Saw-Mill was erected by Smith & Diffenderfer, in 1852. It was situated on the bank of Eel River, from which it received its motive power. The general desire for better residences than the log houses created a demand for

sawed lumber, and the mill proved a profitable investment to its proprietors. It was operated successfully for a number of years, but was finally suffered to go to decay.

In 1855, Peter Heller erected a steam grist-mill near the saw-mill of Smith & Diffenderfer. He operated it successfully for several years, when it was destroyed by fire, and never rebuilt.

The First Post Office was established in 1834, and Adam Hull appointed Postmaster. He held the position until his death, which occurred September 1, 1[illegible] Peter Heller was appointed his successor, and removed the office to his [illegible]ouse, when it received the name of Heller's Corner Post Office. In 1862, the office was removed to Wesley Chapel.

The First Election was held in 1836. Adam Hull and Mr. Bond were candidates for the office of Justice of the Peace, and the votes in favor of each candidate were found, when counted, to be equal in number. To spare the expense consequent upon another election, the candidates mutually agreed that the ballots should be placed in a hat, and the Judge be requested to draw one ticket from the number, the name it bore to indicate the successful competitor. The ticket was drawn accordingly, and the name it bore was that of Adam Hull, who was duly qualified as the first Justice of the Peace in the township.

CHURCHES.

Methodist Episcopal.—In the winter of 1837 and 1838, a class was organized at the house of John McKee, with ten members. John Bennett was appointed Class-Leader. They then had no Pastor, but were visited occasionally by Rev. James Ross, by whom services were conducted. In 1843, they erected a hewed-log house opposite the present site of Wesley Chapel, and consecrated it as a house of worship; and, from that date, they received the visitation of a Pastor every alternate Sunday. The congregation increased, and, in 1865, they erected a frame church at Johnston & McKee's Corners. The building is 40x60 feet, and cost $2,500. It was dedicated by S. N. Campbell, February 18, 1866. The present membership is eighty. Rev. D. P. Hartman is the present Pastor. The Church officers are as follows: A. W. Robinson and S. K. Waterson, Stewards; Henry Dice, Israel Hollopeter and S. K. Waterson, Class-Leaders.

Baptist.—The Baptist Church in this township was organized by Elder Wedge, on the 21st day of December, 1844. At the first regular meeting, January 25, 1845, Appleton Rich was chosen Deacon, and John Ross, Clerk. On the 16th day of May, 1846, Rev. A. S. Bingham was chosen Pastor, and stood in that relation until ill health and the infirmities of age compelled his resignation—a period of more than twenty-five years. He died in June, 1876. April 15, 1848, John Ross, Jacob Diffenderfer and Sampson Jackson were elected the first Trustees of the Church, and, three days later, Jacob Diffendarfer, Appleton Rich and John J. Savage were elected as a building committee. In 1850, a frame house of worship was erected near Heller's C[illegible]s, and dedicated on the 28th day of September of the same year. The building was 21x30 feet, and cost $600. In 1878, the congregation built a substantial brick edifice, adjacent to the old building. The present church is 38x58 feet, and was built at a cost of $1,400. It was dedicated August 25, 1878, by Rev. Rider. Connected with the Church is a well-organized Sunday school, having more than a hundred scholars enrolled. Charles Lipes is the present Superintendent.

German Baptist.—In 1874, twenty-eight members of this denomination withdrew from the Cedar Creek Church, for the purpose of organizing in Eel River Township. Jeremiah Gump was chosen Pastor, and still serves in that capacity. In 1875, they built a frame church, 36x50 feet, on Section 9, at a cost of $1,500. The number of members at present is fifty. Cyrus Williams, William Rinehold, George Bosler, and Nathan Johnson, Deacons.

Wesleyan Methodist.—The Wesleyan Methodist Church in this township was constituted by those who were formerly attached to the United Brethren Church. The latter denomination organized in 1853, with a class of ten members, and moved harmoniously for a number of years. In 1860, they erected a frame church in the west part of the township, at a cost of $700. Here they held regular services, and their membership increased until 1874; then a number of their members embraced the doctrine of sanctification, but were unable to secure the sympathy or co-operation of their Pastor. The majority of the congregation embraced the doctrine, and the position taken by the pastor caused a disaffection, which grew until the members who held those views withdrew, and organized the Wesleyan Methodist Church. Soon after this, meetings at the United Brethren Church were discontinued, and the organization ceased to exist.

On the 10th day of May, 1878, the Wesleyan Methodists purchased the church building from the Trustees of the old organization, paying them $200. The new organization now has ten members. William Kennedy, Pastor; William McCormick, Class-Leader and Steward.

Church of God.—In February, 1875, a Church of this denomination was organized at Potter's Station, with ten constituent members. Rev. John Parker was the first Pastor; L. Bowman, Elder; Elam Disler, Deacon. In the spring of 1876, they built a house of worship, 40x52 feet, at a cost of $1,360. It was dedicated May 12, 1876, by Rev. Mrs. McCauley, and christened "Ari Chapel." The present number of members is fifteen. Rev. Ober is the present Pastor; [illegible] Disler, Elder, and L. Bowman, Deacon. Mr. Bowman is also Superintendent of the Sunday school, which has an enrollment of fifty scholars.

CONCLUSION.

This township stands highly as a productive locality, and has a history—civil and military—which will compare favorably with any region of the county, and of which her citizens may justly be proud. Hon. John P. Shoaff was elected Justice of the Peace in 1837, Trustee in 1842, and Representative in the State Legislature in 1862, and was re-elected in 1864 and 1866.

John M. Taylor, a resident of this township, was the successful candidate for Treasurer of Allen County at the last election, and is now serving in that capacity.

During the late war, this township furnished a full quota of soldiers—twice clearing herself from a draft; and at one time, it is said, scarcely a man of military age remained in the township.

MRS. SUSANNAH VALENTINE.

This aged lady, who was one among the very earliest settlers in this county, came here when the country that now is dotted over with churches and schoolhouses, that is traversed in all directions with railroads and turnpikes, and whose surface is covered with splendid farms, was a vast wilderness, inhabited mostly by Indians and wild beasts.

She is a native of the State of Maryland, where she was born on the 4th day of January, 1799. Her maiden name was Susannah Peters.

When she was quite young, her parents removed to what is now Fairfield County, Ohio, and were among the pioneers that first settled in that part of Ohio.

In 1820, she was united in marriage with John Valentine, and they soon after moved on to a tract of wild land that he had purchased, and went to work to make a home for themselves and their children. They remained there until in June, 1833, when they sold their farm and, loading their household goods in a wagon, came to Allen County, to start anew in the struggle for fortune.

He purchased a tract of land in Eel River Township, consisting of 227 acres, and, with stout hearts and willing hands, in a few years had a comfortable home, and were surrounded with the comforts of life.

In 1868, the partner of her youthful days was removed from earth, leaving her to mourn his temporal loss, but in hopes of an eternal re-union hereafter.

Mrs. Valentine is the mother of eleven children; three sons and three daughters are left to comfort her declining years.

She was brought up within the pale of the Lutheran Church; but owing to the fact that there were no facilities for attending the church of that denomination, in 1858, she became affiliated with the Christian or Campbellite Church, of which Church she has since been a consistent member.

Mrs. Valentine is now over eighty years old, but is still hearty and remarkably vigorous for a person of her advanced age.

JACKSON VALENTINE,

son of John and Susannah Valentine, was born October 15, 1824, in Franklin County, Ohio. He was early trained to habits of industry, and he learned his lesson well. His opportunities for acquiring an education when young were limited to the country schools, which at that time had not attained their present standard of excellence, and his education was consequently rudimentary only.

His father was a farmer, owning the farm on which he lived, and which he sold in 1833, and in June of that year took his family and removed to Allen County.

Soon after his arrival, he purchased the tract of land which his son Jackson now owns, consisting of 227 acres of excellent land in Eel River Township, and commenced to clear it of its heavy growth of timber, in order to make a comfortable home. Jackson remained at home, assisting his father in his labors on the farm, until January 6, 1850, when he was united in marriage with Miss Charlotte Greenawalt, of this county.

Their union was blessed with three children, only one of whom (a son) is still living. She departed this life May 18, 1876, deeply mourned by all who knew her.

Soon after their marriage, he purchased a tract of land, consisting of 124 acres, in Lake Township, on which he lived until the latter part of 1859, at which time he purchased the old homestead of his father, and moved on to it, and where he now lives.

It is a splendid farm—160 acres of the land is in a fine state of cultivation, and is very productive. On May 19, 1878, he was married the second time, taking Mrs. Maria Jones, an estimable widow lady, for his partner through the journey of life.

Mr. Valentine has been a member of the Christian, or Campbellite Church, for nearly twenty years. He is a plain, industrious, upright man, and a good citizen.

DAVID H. LIPES

was born in Botetourt County, Va., July 12, 1811. His father was a well-to-do farmer and his children were trained to habits of industry. Advantages for gaining an education were not as favorable when he was young as they are to-day, but the opportunities he had were well improved.

He remained at home till he was twenty-two years of age, when he purchased a farm and moved on to it. He had been united in marriage, on the 25th of October, 1832, with Miss Margaret N. Thrasher, who was also a native of Botetourt County.

Their wedded life has been blessed with seven children, five of whom (four sons and one daughter) are still living.

They lived and prospered on their farm until the summer of 1850, when they sold their possessions in Virginia, and loaded their household goods and little family into wagons and started for Indiana, arriving in Allen County on the 23d

of September. Shortly thereafter, he purchased a farm in Marion Township, which was partially improved. Remaining there until in August, 1861, he purchased and moved on to the farm on which he now lives. It originally consisted of 214 acres, to which he has added until it now embraces 365 acres of splendid land. He is now the owner of 755 acres of land in this county. He has always been a straightforward, upright, successful business man, and has secured a competence of this world's goods with which to support his declining years.

Politically, Mr. Lipes is a Democrat, and, although never an active politician, is always decided in his views. He was elected Trustee of Marion Township in 1854, which office he held continuously until 1861, or seven years, and, in 1862, he was elected County Commissioner and re-elected in 1866, serving in that official capacity seven years consecutively, to the entire satisfaction of his constituents and with honor to himself.

He has been a consistent member of the Baptist Church for nearly forty years.

Mr. Lipes, though well advanced in years, having nearly reached the allotted "three-score and ten," is still hale and vigorous, and, surrounded by friends that esteem him for the kindly qualities he possesses and respected by all that know him, his remaining years will doubtless be passed in comfort and social harmony, as the blessed harvest of seed sown in earlier years by a diligent, faithful servant, who is now justly reaping his reward in his venerable old age.

ARTHUR T. STURGEON

was born April 7, 1838, in Ross County, Ohio. His parents were respectable, thrifty farmers, and their children were brought up to follow in their footsteps. Arthur T. had all the opportunities that were afforded by the public schools to acquire an education, and they were well improved.

He remained at home assisting his father in the labor and management of his farm, when he was not attending school, until he was twenty-one years of age. In 1859, he visited Allen County, and while here met Miss Mary M. Lipes, only daughter of David H. Lipes, Esq., of Eel River Township, one of the oldest and best-known citizens of the county, and on the 12th of January, 1860, they were united in marriage, shortly after returning to Ohio. About one year after, they returned to this county and commenced the battle of life in earnest, and with such success, that, in 1871, he was able to purchase the beautiful farm on which he now resides, in Eel River Township. An idea of the beauty of the farm and the loveliness of his home can be gathered from the view of it to be found in this volume.

The union of Mr. and Mrs. Sturgeon has been blessed with two children, one son who bids fair to vie with his father in industry and thrift, and a daughter who emulates the graces and virtues of her mother, and to her other accomplishments adds that of being a splendid musician.

Mr. Sturgeon is a Democrat in political belief, but has never taken an active part in politics, preferring to see the principles of his party carried out by others, while he attends to the business of his farm.

He has been a consistent member of the Baptist Church for about six years, and is always, not only willing, but ready and anxious to assist in everything that has a tendency to improve, either morally or intellectually, those around him.

Mr. Sturgeon is now just in the prime of life, with a good prospect of long years of usefulness before him.

WESLEY JOHNSTON,

son of Joseph and Martha Johnston, was born in Eel River Township, Allen County, March 23, 1842. His father was born February 15, 1802, in the State of New Jersey, while his mother (formerly Miss Martha Opdyke) was born December 18, 1811. Joseph Johnston (father to Wesley), in 1822, removed to Greene Co., Ohio, where he married Martha Opdyke February 14, 1825. In 1835, they emigrated to what was then the wilds of Allen County, Ind., settling on the land still owned and occupied by Mrs. Johnston, in Eel River Township. Braving the hardships and perils that overshadow the pioneer's pathway, with strong hands and fearless hearts, they made headway rapidly toward fiting up a home for themselves. Enduring toil and privation for many years, they finally acquired 360 acres of excellent land, a home, surrounded with comforts and with plenty. Respected by all who knew him, this noble pioneer departed this life June 29, 1869, leaving the venerable partner of his toils and hardships, his joys and sorrows, to mourn his loss. Mrs. Johnston, now nearly "three-score and ten," looks back to a long life well spent.

The career of young Wesley ran along about in the channel of other young men of his rude opportunities, up to the period of the late rebellion. He was attending the Methodist Episcopal College at Fort Wayne. The spring term of that institution closing in June, 1861, he enlisted as a private soldier on the 27th day of July following, at Fort Wayne, to join the Nineteenth Regiment, U. S. Infantry, then being recruited in this city, by Lieut. Stanberry. Two days after enlisting, he was sent to Indianapolis and assigned to Capt. Gillman's company (A). At that particular time, there were no volunteers being recruited in Allen County, the cause of his having enlisted in the regular army. Wesley was impatient of delay, fearing the war might terminate ere he could take a part. In September, 1861, his company, being full and ready for field service, reported for duty to Maj. Gen. Anderson, commanding in Kentucky, with headquarters at Louisville. They continued with this command, participating in the terrible battle of Pittsburg Landing; in the long retreat back through Tennessee and Kentucky; in the hotly contested fight at Perryville; thence on, after the name was changed to the Army of the Cumberland, under Maj. Gen. Rosecrans; in the battle of Stone River, the skirmish at Tullahoma, and finally in the great battle of Chickamauga. At this time, they were in Gen. Baird's division, Fourteenth Army Corps, under Maj. Gen. Thomas. Up to and including the second day of this famous battle—September 20, 1863—whether in camp, on the march, or facing the deadly missiles of the enemy, young Johnston could ever be found present with his company and command, faithful and true to his trust. But, unfortunately, on that Sabbath evening, even after the contest had virtually ceased, he was captured. And now, an unwilling prisoner of war, with a [illegible] of others, he was hastened off to Richmond, Va., to be there lodged in the [illegible]berton Building. Here, confined for about six weeks, he was removed to Danville, of the same State. Thinly clad, deprived even of clothing sent them for issue by the United States Government; sparingly fed, on miserable food, and allowed no fire through that long winter; snow, at one time, for three days, being many inches deep on level, and including the extreme cold of that memorable New Year's—here he was kept to suffer, from November, 1863, till May, 1864. With his fellow-sufferers, he was then removed again, this time to Andersonville, that prison so famous for his horrors. Here, in common with the general rule, a victim of the most painful privation and exposure, he was detained until September, 1864. To Charleston, S. C., they were next removed, and, after a stay there of about six weeks, were still again transferred to Florence, also of South Carolina. While here, about the middle of December, 1864, they received the joyful news of relief. Wesley, with a large number of his prison comrades, had been "exchanged."

Reaching the sea coast, then, in the hands of the "boys in blue," they hailed the "old flag" once more, with shouts of gladness and with hearts of joy! At Annapolis, Md., a new outfit of clothing and other necessaries were provided, and, from here, Wesley received a furlough to come home.

His furlough twice extended, he finally returned to Annapolis, and on the 31st of March, 1865, was discharged. But he was now a mere walking skeleton; his weight was reduced to about one hundred pounds. Following his final return home, he had a long sickness, necessarily caused by his hardships, exposures and privations, during about fifteen months of prison life. For a long time, his restoration was almost dispaired of. However, Providence decreed it otherwise. In a measure, he was finally restored to health, and is still alive to narrate the scenes of cruelty and suffering, to which prison life had made him a victim. On the 5th day of October, 1865, he wedded Miss Martha McKee, daughter of John and Mary McKee, of Eel River Township—her mother was a widow, however, at the time.

Their union has been blessed with four children—Luther H., Charles L., James and Clara May. In the accumulation of property, they have prospered liberally. They now have a farm of 103 acres, having occupied it since 1872, and possess with it a comfortable, happy home. Both Mr. and Mrs. Johnston have been members of the Methodist Episcopal Church since 1859.

In politics, Mr. Johnston is an uncompromising Republican, but no [illegible]ti-tician.

He is an enterprising farmer; has already taken steps toward breeding an improved grade of cattle, sheep and hogs, and intends a continuance of improvement as fast as circumstances will permit. He is a friend to education, a supporter and advocate of good schools, and, as far as able, ever stands ready to aid in advancing general improvements for his county. Peaceable, temperate, kind to his family and industrious; better, by far, would our communities be, could we have a greater number of citizens like Wesley Johnston.

LIEUT. JERRY HEFFELFINGER

was born August 15, 1832, in Cumberland County, Penn. His father, Capt. John Heffelfinger, and his mother—before marriage, Miss Elizabeth George—were also natives of that county. The public schools of the Keystone State, at that period, were the means of education in youth for young Jerry, and it is said that he improved his opportunities.

Reaching his sixteenth year, or in the spring of 1848, he, with his parents, came to Allen County. They settled on the farm owned at this time by William J. Mayo, Esq., of Eel River Township, which they proceeded at once to improve. The five succeeding years, nearly, he employed alternately at labor on the farm for his father, and in attending school. Passing the age of twenty, he went forth from the home circle, to institute his own career in life. Thenceforward, seven successive years afforded a school of varied experience in a number of different States. Finding no place, to him, possessing more charms than Eel River Township, at the age of twenty-seven, he returned to the old homestead, and again engaged in farming.

Thus pursuing about one year, on September 13, 1860, he married Miss Margaret Slagel, oldest daughter of George W. Slagel, Esq., a pioneer of the adjoining county of Whitley, now renting a farm for one year; the ensuing summer he purchased a tract of fifty acres of timber-land, taking possession in the fall of 1861. This he proceeded to clear and convert into a farm. During the winter following, he deadened and prepared six acres for corn; underbrushing twelve acres beside. But emotions of patriotism responded to the voice of his country, in calling to aid in the war against rebellion. He left his little [illegible] of corn still verdant in the field, bade adieu to his young wife, and on August 5, 1862, enlisted as a soldier in Company E, Eighty-eighth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for three years or during the war, the same being organized at Camp Allen, near Fort Wayne. At its organization, he was appointed one of the Sergeants of his company. August 29, his regiment was ordered to Louisville, Ky., reaching its destination on the 30th. From there, they quickly passed on to the front. Sergeant Heffelfinger was with his company and regiment at the battles of Perryville and Stone River; in the skirmish at Duck River and at the terrible conflict at Chickamauga. At Stone River, he narrowly escaped a severe

2774-2785

Fitch,	Nathaniel	45	M	Farmer	4000	Penn.
	Sarah	31	F			Ohio

460

Perry Township

Fitch,	Perry	9	M	Indiana
	Matthais	8	M	"
	Mary J.	5	F	"
	Charles	4	M	"
	Amos	2	M	"
McKee,	Wm.	15	M	Ohio

2734-2746

Gloyd, George V. or B.	38	M	Farmer	5000	Penn.
Magdalena	35	F			Va.
Jerome D.	9	M	-(1841-1917) m. Kitelia Fitch (1851-1935)		Indiana
Louis	8	M			"
Sarah	6	F			"
William	4	M			"
Mary	3	F			"
Edwin	1	M			"
Miller, Frederick	25	M	Laborer		Germany

2743-2755

Gloyd, Lorenzo	37	M	Farmer	2500	Md.
Elizabeth	39	F			Penn.
William	9	M			Indiana
James	8	M			"
Ellen	7	F			"
Elbridge	6	M			"
George	5	M			"
Allen	4	M			"
Jerome	2	M	twin		"
Magdaleda	2	F	twin		"
Butter, Sarah	14	F			"

2675-2687

Kell, George (1816-	34	M	Farmer	2500	France
Elizabeth	34	F			Ohio
Orin	16	M	Laborer		N.Y.
Elizabeth Schermil	14	F			"

Family Group Sheet

Husband's Full Name Nathaniel Fitch **Chart No.**

	Day Month Year	City Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add info or C
Birth	Feb. 12, 1781		Prob. Fairfield Co.	CT.	
Chr'nd					
Marr	Aug. 29, 1801		Wyoming Co., PA	PA	
Death	Sept. 14, 1839		Falls Township, Wyoming Co. PA	PA	
Burial		Fitch Cem., Falls Township, Wyoming Co., PA (Now Roberts Cem.)			

Places of Residence: CT, Falls Township, Wyoming Co., PA

Occupation: Farmer Church Affiliation: Military Rec.

Other wives, if any, No. (1), (2) etc.
Make separate sheet for each Marr.

His Father: John Fitch Mother's Maiden Name: ?

Wife's Full Maiden Name Sarah Keeler

	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc	State or Country	Add info or C
Birth	June 28, 1785	Ridgefield	Fairfield Co.	CT	
Chr'nd					
Death	Feb. 6, 1856		Falls Township, Wyoming Co.	PA	
Burial		Fitch Cem.	Falls Township, Wyoming Co.	PA	

Places of Residence: Ridgefield, CT Wyoming Co., PA

Occupation: Church Affiliation: Military Rec.

Other Husbands, if any, No. (1), (2) etc.
Make separate sheet for each Marr.

Her Father: Paul Keeler, Jr. Mother's Maiden Name: Sarah Burt Cornwall

Sex			Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc	State or Country	Add info or C
	1 Seymour	Birth	Sept. 3, 1802	Falls Twp.	Wyoming Co.	PA	12 child.
		Marr					
	Full Name of Spouse: Elizabeth Johnson	Death	July 19, 1855	Falls Twp.	Wyoming Co.	PA	
		Burial		Fitch Cem.	Wyoming Co.	PA	
	2 Giles	Birth	June/July 9, 1804	Falls Twp.	Wyoming Co.	PA.	
		Marr	Feb. 27, 1831				
	Full Name of Spouse: Emily Goodale	Death	Oct. 14, 1890	Falls Twp	Wyoming Co.	PA	
		Burial		Roberts Cem.	Wyoming Co.	PA	
	3 Nathaniel	Birth	July 9, 1806	Falls Twp	Wyoming Co.	PA	15 child.
		Marr.	June 4, 1840		Allen/DeKalb Co.	IN	
	Full Name of Spouse: Sarah Eliz. DeLong	Death	Jan 1, 1877		Allen Co., Perry Twp	IN	
		Burial		Perry Twp Cem.,	Allen Co,	IN	
	4 Morgan	Birth	Mar 8, 1809	Falls Twp.	Wyoming Co.	PA	
		Marr.					
	Full Name of Spouse: Mary Ann Williams	Death	Dec. 14, 1888	Falls Twp.	Wyoming Co.	PA	
		Burial		Fitch Cem.	Wyoming Co.	PA	
	5 Spencer	Birth	July 21, 1811	Falls Twp.	Wyoming Co.	PA	
		Marr.					
	Full Name of Spouse: Elizabeth Sickler	Death	Oct 4, 1895	Falls Twp.	Wyoming Co.	PA	
		Burial		Fitch Cem./Roberts	Wyoming Co.	PA	
	6 Abigail	Birth	Mar 2, 1814	Falls Twp.	Wyoming Co.	PA	
		Marr.					
	Full Name of Spouse: Jacob Sickler, Jr.	Death	Mar 18, 1851				
		Burial					
	7 John	Birth	Apr. 16, 1816				
		Marr					
	Full Name of Spouse:	Death	Nov. 26, 1841				
		Burial					
	8 Perry	Birth	July 7, 1818				
		Marr					
	Full Name of Spouse:	Death	July 23, 1838				
		Burial					

Compiler:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Date:

Notes: Fitch Cemetery was originally on the Fitch land. Moved to outside Roberts Cemetery in 1975.

Husband's Full Name: Nathaniel Fitch

Form A101 Family Group Sheet by The Everton Publishers, P.O. Box 368, Logan, UT 84321 Publishers of The Genealogical Helper. Send for a free catalogue with list and full descriptions of many genealogical aids.

Additional Children and Sources:

Husband's name Nathaniel Fitch Wife's name Sarah Keeler

Sex	Children's Names in Full (arrange in order of birth)	Child and Data	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add. info. on Ch
	9 SARAH	Birth	Apr. 6, 1821	Falls Twp.	Wyoming Co.	PA	
	Full Name of Spouse John Sickler	Marr					
		Death	Jan 8, 1890				
		Burial					
	10 Nancy	Birth	Aug 4, 1823	Falls Twp.	Wyoming Co	PA	
	Full Name of Spouse 1. Elijah Jenkins 2. Newman Miller	Marr.	Oct. 17, 1844	→ Elijah	Sept 14, 1863 to Newman		Miller
		Death	July 15, 1875				
		Burial					
	11 Allen	Birth	Feb 28 1826	Falls Twp	Wyoming Co.,	PA	
	Full Name of Spouse Lydia Beemer	Marr.					
		Death	Sept 28 1855	Falls Twp	Wyoming Co,	PA	
		Burial		Fitch Cem.	Wyoming Co	PA	
	12 Mary "Polly"	Birth	June 26 1828	Falls Twp	Wyoming Co	PA	3 child. (Siglin)
	Full Name of Spouse 1. Linford Siglin	Marr.					
		Death	Jan 11 1905				
		Burial					
	13 2. Christian Deubler	Birth					
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.					
		Death					
		Burial					
	14	Birth					
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.					
		Death					
		Burial					
	15	Birth					
	Full Name of Spouse	Marr.					
		Death					
		Burial					

Sources for Husband:

Family History passed down
Gravestones

Sources for Wife:

Family History
Gravestones
Keelee / Whitney Genealogy

Sources for Children:

Family History
Gravestones

Additional Information:

Family Group Sheet

Husband's Full Name Nathaniel Fitch II **Chart No.**

	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add Info
Birth	July 9 1806	Falls Township	Wyoming Co.	PA	
Chr'nd					
Marr	June 4 1840	Allen / DeKalb Co. IN		IN	
Death	Jan 1 1877	Allen County, Perry Township		IN	
Burial		Perry Township Cem.	Allen Co, IN	IN	

Places of Residence: PA, Carroll, DeKalb, Allen Counties, IN

Occupation: Blacksmith, Farmer Church Affiliation: Military Rec.

Other wives, if any. No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each marr.: Sawmill, Carding Mill

His Father: Nathaniel Fitch I Mother's Maiden Name: Sarah Keeler

Wife's Full Maiden Name Sarah Elizabeth DeLong

	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc	State or Country	Add Info
Birth	May 29 1818	Bethel Township	Miami Co.	Ohio	
Chr'nd					
Death	Sept 2 1908	Perry Township	Allen Co	IN	
Burial		Perry Twp. Cemetery	Allen Co	IN	

Places of Residence: Miami Co, Ohio Allen & DeKalb Co, IN

Occupation: Church Affiliation: Military Rec.

Other husbands, if any. No. (1) (2) etc. Make separate sheet for each marr.

Her Father: George DeLong, Sr. Mother's Maiden Name: Elizabeth Statler

Sex			Day Month Year	City, Town or Place	County or Province, etc.	State or Country	Add Info
	1 Perry	Birth	Jan 6 1842	Perry Twp	Allen Co.	IN	
		Marr	May 12 1864				11 child.
	Full Name of Spouse: Sarah E. Gloyd	Death	Apr 14 1900	Perry Twp	Allen Co.	IN	
		Burial		Perry Township Cemetery		IN	
	2 Mathias	Birth	Jan 16 1843	Perry Twp	Allen Co.	IN	"Sci"
		Marr.	Dec 1 1867		Allen Co	IN	9 child.
	Full Name of Spouse: Frances VanDolah	Death	Dec 10 1923	Perry Twp	Allen Co.	IN	
		Burial		Perry Township Cemetery		IN	
	3 Mary Jane	Birth	Oct 15 1844	Perry Twp	Allen Co.	IN	"Jennie"
		Marr.	Dec 24 1873				5 child.
	Full Name of Spouse: Levi Beers	Death	Mar 17 1925				
		Burial		Oak Hill Cem.	Neenan	Wisconsin	
	4 Charles	Birth	Mar 29 1846	Perry Twp.	Allen Co.	IN	
		Marr.	Apr 26 1868				7 child.
	Full Name of Spouse: Louann Club	Death	Aug 21 1925				
		Burial		Oak Hill Cem.	South St Paul	MN	
	5 Nancy	Birth	Mar 16 1848	Perry Twp	Allen Co	IN	
		Marr.					
	Full Name of Spouse	Death	Sept 1 1848	Perry Twp	Allen Co	IN	
		Burial		Perry Township Cemetery		IN	
	6 Amos	Birth	June 11 1849	Perry Twp	Allen Co	IN	"Ame"
		Marr.	Nov 27 1878				4 child.
	Full Name of Spouse: Nancy E. Hunter	Death	Nov 9 1935	Butler Twp	DeKalb Co.	IN	
		Burial		Cedar Chapel Cem.	DeKalb Co.	IN	
	7 Fitelia	Birth	Apr 10 1851	Perry Twp	Allen Co	IN	
		Marr.	Oct 6 1875				4 child.
	Full Name of Spouse: Jerome D. Gloyd	Death	Jan 8 1935	Perry Twp	Allen Co	IN	
		Burial		Perry Township Cemetery		IN	
	8 Francelia	Birth	Apr 10 1851	Perry Twp	Allen Co.	IN	
		Marr.	Nov 26 1874				3 child.
	Full Name of Spouse: Christian Norman Fair	Death	Dec 29 1937	Alden		KS	
		Burial		Alden Cem.	Alden	KS	

Compiler: Betty L. Fitch

Address: 14615 Auburn Rd.

City, State, Zip: Fort Wayne IN

Date: 1999

Notes:

Husband's Full Name: Nathaniel Fitch II

Twin?

Form A100 Family Group Sheet by The Everton Publishers, P.O. Box 368, Logan, UT 84321 Publishers of The Genealogical Helper. Send for a free catalogue with list and full descriptions of many genealogical aids

Additional Children and Sources:

Husband's name

Wife's name

Sex	Children's Names in Full (Arrange in order of birth)	Children's Data	Day Month Year	City, Town or Place County or Province, etc. State or Country	Add. info. on Ch
	9 HARVEY	Birth	July 15 1853	PERRY Twp Allen Co IN	"HARV"
		Marr.	Aug 30 1879		5 child.
	Full Name of Spouse PERMELIA E. PARKER	Death	Sept 13 1948	PERRY Twp Allen Co IN	
		Burial		PERRY Township Cemetery IN	
	10 SARAH ELIZ.	Birth	MAR 29 1855	PERRY Twp. Allen Co IN	
		Marr.	Dec 28 1881		4 child.
	Full Name of Spouse IRVIN F. STRATTON	Death	Aug 4 1958		
		Burial		Lindenwood Cem. Ft Wayne IN	
	11 Allen	Birth	Feb. 21, 1857	PERRY Twp Allen Co IN	
		Marr.	MAY 25. 1893		0 child.
	Full Name of Spouse EMMA L. GREEN	Death	Dec 19 1952	MN.	
		Burial		Acacia Park Cem. Mendota, MN	
	12 IDA ALICE	Birth	Oct 25 1858	PERRY Twp Allen Co IN	
		Marr.	Oct 8 1890		0 child.
	Full Name of Spouse Melville A. MASON	Death	Dec 14 1945	Allen Co. IN	
		Burial		New Haven IOOF Cem. New Haven IN	
	13 Emeline	Birth	Feb 1 1861	PERRY Twp Allen Co. IN	
		Marr.	Dec 28 1881		0 child.
	Full Name of Spouse Allen M. HARTZELL	Death	Aug 28 1949		
		Burial		New Haven IOOF Cem. New Haven IN	
	14 John Edward	Birth	Feb. 14 1864	PERRY Twp Allen Co IN	kicked by a horse
		Marr.			
	Full Name of Spouse	Death	MAY 19 1870	PERRY Twp Allen Co IN	
		Burial		PERRY Township Cemetery IN	
	15 David Nathaniel	Birth	Feb. 13 1865	PERRY Twp Allen Co IN	
		Marr.	June 1 1887		3 child.
	Full Name of Spouse Emma Belle Stirlen	Death	Apr 4 1950		
		Burial		Woodlawn Cem. Auburn IN	

Sources for Husband:

GRAVESTONES - PERRY Cem, Allen Co IN
FAMILY history - Book published 1972 by family historian
Allen Co. History - GRISWOLD

Sources for Wife:

GRAVESTONES
FAMILY HISTOEY
Allen Co. HISTOEY
MIAMI Co., Ohio histories, records

Sources for Children:

GRAVESTONES
FAMILY HISTORY
Allen Co. HISTORY - GRISWOLD

Additional Information:

NATHANIEL WAS A BLACKSMITH, RAN both SAWMILL AND CARDING MILL AND GRISTMILL
FARMED, bought land in IOWA
WORKED on WABASH ERIE CANAL locks
CAME from Falls PA to INDIANA on foot

MATHIAS MAY have been named "JOSIAH MATHIAS" CALLED "SCI" but went by MATHIAS on legal records. CALLED JOSIAH in mother's OBITUARY.

FORT WAYNE LAND OFFICE ENTRIES, 1823-1852

[This is a brief introduction to the Fort Wayne Land Office Database, compiled by the Archives' staff with the aid of an Indiana Heritage Research Grant.]

The "land office business" in Indiana began in 1801, when public lands in the southeastern corner of the Indiana Territory were put up for sale at Cincinnati. The U.S. Congress subsequently opened land offices at Vincennes in 1804; at Jeffersonville in 1807; in 1819 at Terre Haute (later Crawfordsville) and Brookville (later Indianapolis); and at Ft. Wayne in 1822. An additional land office opened at LaPorte in 1833; six years later, the office was moved to Winamac. The LaPorte- Winamac District embraced all or part of the present counties of Benton, Carroll, Cass, Elkhart, Fulton, Howard, Jasper, Kosciusko, Lake, LaPorte, Marshall, Miami, Newton, Porter, Pulaski, St. Joseph, Starke, Wabash, and White.

A significant portion of the land in the district was previously offered for sale by the Crawfordsville and Ft. Wayne Land Offices, with some 500,000 acres actually purchased. These sales are not included in the records of the LaPorte-Winamac Office. The first sale of land in the new district took place on 12 August 1833. After the LaPorte-Winamac Land Office closed on 31 January 1855, responsibility for unsold lands was transferred to the Indianapolis Land Office. When that closed, all records were transferred to the State Auditor and from there to the Indiana State Archives.

These land office records comprise the most detailed history available of the settlement of 19 counties, providing the names and residences of the purchaser; the date of purchase; and the legal description of the tract. All this information is now on a computerized database of 48,562 records, each structured in 12 fields documenting the details of a land sale. The Archives' staff can quickly answer questions relative to any field or combination of fields, searching the entire database in the process. For example, patrons can request all references to a particular person and family, or to specific tracts and areas of land.

In order to make available over the Internet some of the information from this database, the Archives generated this report of individual names, residence at the time of purchase and date of purchase from the database. Only a single instance of a specific name is listed here, but the database itself includes as many entries as there were separate purchases. Patrons should contact the Archives for the complete records.

Because the project staff did not amend or standardize the entries found in the tract books, many variants can be found for the same name. This variety simply reflects the lack of a standard orthography in a society where not everyone was literate, as well as the vagaries of 19th century clerks. Patrons, then, should search under all conceivable spellings to find the names they want.

Fort Wayne Database Search Page

Land Records Index

Subject Index **Archives Home Page** **E-mail the Archives**

Nathaniel Fitch, third son of Nathaniel and Sarah Keeler Fitch was born at Tunskennsch (Tunkhannock,) Pennsylvania on July 9, 1806. On June 4, 1840 he married Sarah Elizabeth DeLong who was born May 29, 1818, near Tippeconoe (one source says Dayton), Miami County, Ohio -- daughter of George and Exizabeth Stattler DeLong. Nathaniel Fitch died January 1, 1877 at his home near Huntertown, Indiana, Perry Township, Allen County and is buried at Perry Cemetry near Huntertown. His wife died September 2, 1908 at the same home and is buried in the same cemetry. They had fifteen children.

Name	Born	Died	Married
1. Perry	Jan. 6, 1842	April 14, 1900	Sara Eliz. Gloyd
2. Mathias	Jan. 16, 1843	Dec. 10, 1923	Francis Vandolah
3. Mary Jane	Oct. 15, 1844	March 17, 1925	Levi Beers
4. Charles	March 29, 1846	Aug. 21, 1925	Louann Clubb
5. Nancy	March 16, 1848		
6. Amos	June 11, 1849	Nov. 9, 1935	Nancy Eliz. Hunter
7. Fitelia	April 10, 1851	Jan. 8, 1935	Jerome Dorsey Gloyd
8. Francelia	" "		Christian Norman Fair
9. Harvey	July 15, 1853		Permelia Etta Parker
10. Sarah Eliz.	March 29, 1855	August 1958	Irvin Franklin Stratton
11. Allen	Feb. 21, 1857		Emma Lewillian Green
12. Ida Alice	Oct. 25, 1858		Melville Arthur Mason
13. Emeline	Feb. 1, 1861		Allen Monroe Hartzell
14. John Edward	Feb. 14, 1864		
15. David Nathaniel	Feb. 13, 1865		Emma Belle Sterlin

Sarah Elizabeth Fitch, tenth child of Nathaniel and Sarah Elizabeth DeLong Fitch was born March 29, 1855 at the family home near Huntertown, Indiana, Allen County, Perry Township. She was married on December 28, 1881 to Irvin Franklin Stratton, who was born April 20, 1848 near Lagro, Indiana, Wabash County. Irvin Franklin Stratton was killed in an accident on April 2, 1902 at

San Bernadino, California. He is burried in Lindenwood Cemetery, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. There were four children born to them.

Leander Elliot	April 13, 1885
Harold Fitch	Jan. 31, 1888
Helen	Dec. 16, 1892
Marguerite	March 4, 1896

Edna Belle Beaver died Aug. 18, 1917

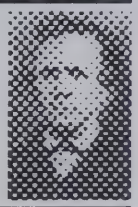
Claude Henry Bowlby

Clarence Reddin Nobles - died Aug. 13, 1928



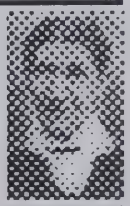
Husband: Nathaniel Fitch, Jr.

Born: July 09, 1806 in: Tunkhannock Falls Township, Wyo Co., Pa.
Married: June 04, 1840
Died: January 01, 1877 in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
Father: Nathaniel Fitch
Mother: Sarah Keeler



Wife: Sarah Elizabeth DeLong

Born: May 29, 1818 in: Miami Co., Ohio
Died: September 02, 1908 in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
Father: George DeLong
Mother: Elizabeth Statler



	CHILDREN	
1	Name: Perry Fitch	
	Born: January 06, 1842	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
M	Married: May 12, 1864	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
	Died: April 14, 1900	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
	Spouse: Sarah Elizabeth Gloyd	
2	Name: Mathias Fitch	
	Born: January 16, 1843	in: Huntertown, IN
M	Married: December 01, 1923	
	Died: December 10, 1923	
	Spouse: Francis Vandolah	
3	Name: Mary Jane Fitch	
F	Born: October 15, 1844	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
	Died: March 17, 1925	
	Spouse: Levi Beers	
4	Name: Charles Fitch	
	Born: March 29, 1846	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
M	Died: August 21, 1925	in: St. Paul, Minn.
	Spouse: Louann Club	
5	Name: Nancy Fitch	
F	Born: March 16, 1848	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
	Died: September 01, 1848	

Prepared By:
Karen K. Fitch
Space 10
1900 W. Artesia Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90504

Phone(s): email: kkfitch@juno.com OR kkfitch@worldnet.att.net

Husband: Nathaniel Fitch, Jr.

Born:	July 09, 1806	in: Tunkhannock Falls Township, Wyo Co., PA
Married:	June 04, 1840	in:
Died:	January 01, 1877	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
Father:	Nathaniel Fitch	
Mother:	Sarah Keeler	
	Other Spouses:	

Wife: Sarah Elizabeth DeLong

Born:	May 29, 1818	in: Miami Co., Ohio
Died:	September 02, 1908	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
Father:	George DeLong	
Mother:	Elizabeth Statler	
	Other Spouses:	

CHILDREN

1	Name:	Perry Fitch	
	Born:	January 06, 1842	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
M	Married:	May 12, 1864	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
	Died:	April 14, 1900	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
	Spouse:	Sarah Elizabeth Gloyd	
2	Name:	Mathias Fitch	
	Born:	January 16, 1843	in: Huntertown, IN
M	Married:	December 01, 1923	in:
	Died:	December 10, 1923	in:
	Spouse:	Francis Vandolah	
3	Name:	Mary Jane Fitch	
	Born:	October 15, 1844	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
F	Married:		in:
	Died:	March 17, 1925	in:
	Spouse:	Levi Beers	
4	Name:	Charles Fitch	
	Born:	March 29, 1846	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
M	Married:		in:
	Died:	August 21, 1925	in: St. Paul, Minn.
	Spouse:	Louann Club	
5	Name:	Nancy Fitch	
	Born:	March 16, 1848	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
F	Married:		in:
	Died:	September 01, 1848	in:
	Spouse:		
6	Name:	Amos Fitch	
	Born:	June 11, 1849	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
M	Married:	November 27, 1878	in:
	Died:	November 09, 1935	in: Butler Twp., DeKaulb Co., Ind.
	Spouse:	Nancy Elizabeth Hunter	
7	Name:	Fitelia Fitch	
	Born:	April 10, 1851	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
F	Married:	October 06, 1875	in:
	Died:	January 08, 1935	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
	Spouse:	Jerome Dorsey Gloyd	

8	Name:	Francelia Fitch	
	Born:	April 10, 1851	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
F	Married:	November 26, 1874	in:
	Died:	December 29, 1937	in: Riden, Kans.
	Spouse:	Christian Norman Fair	
9	Name:	Harvey Fitch	
	Born:	July 15, 1853	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
M	Married:	August 30, 1879	in:
	Died:	September 13, 1948	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
	Spouse:	Permelia Etta Parker	
10	Name:	Sarah Elizabeth Fitch	
	Born:	March 29, 1855	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
F	Married:	December 28, 1881	in:
	Died:	August 04, 1958	in:
	Spouse:	Irvin Franklin Stratton	
11	Name:	Allen Fitch	
	Born:	February 21, 1857	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
M	Married:	May 25, 1893	in:
	Died:	December 19, 1952	in: Mendota, Minn.
	Spouse:	Emma Lewillian Green	
12	Name:	Ida Alice Fitch	
	Born:	October 25, 1858	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
F	Married:	October 08, 1890	in:
	Died:	December 14, 1945	in: New Haven, Ind.
	Spouse:	Melville Arthur Mason	
13	Name:	Emeline Fitch	
	Born:	February 01, 1861	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
F	Married:	December 28, 1881	in:
	Died:	August 28, 1949	in: New Haven, Ind.
	Spouse:	Allen Monroe Hartzell	
14	Name:	John Edward Fitch	
	Born:	February 14, 1864	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
M	Married:		in:
	Died:	May 19, 1870	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
	Spouse:		
15	Name:	David Nathaniel Fitch	
	Born:	March 13, 1865	in: Perry Twp., Allen Co., IN
M	Married:	June 01, 1887	in:
	Died:	April 04, 1950	in: Auburn, DeKaulb Co., Ind.
	Spouse:	Emma Belle Stirlen	
16	Name:		
	Born:		in:
	Married:		in:
	Died:		in:
	Spouse:		
17	Name:		
	Born:		in:
	Married:		in:
	Died:		in:
	Spouse:		

1840 Census, Allen Co., IN

Faughey, John	Maumee	38
Featherspiel, Michael	Milan	40
Felendin, Etenot	Wayne	22
Ferry, Lucian	Wayne	30
Fhetter, Samuel C.	St. Joseph	51
Filger, John	Marion	44
Fink, Charles	Wayne	23
Fitch, Nathaniel	Perry	47
Fleming, James	Perry	48
Fleming, Robert E.	Wayne	27
Flint, Adam M.	Maumee	37
Flowers, Eliza	Milan	40
Fober, Conride	Washington	32
Fogwell, Samuel	Wayne	21
Foland, Daniel	St. Joseph	51
Fole, Phillip	Marion	45
Folinger, Jacob	Wayne	30
Forbing, John M.	Wayne	26
Fowin, Benjamin H.	Wayne	23
Fox, John C.	Wayne	31
Fraevit(?), Coonrod	Marion	46
Frank, Francis J.	Wayne	24
Freeman, Frame	Eel River	42
French, Charles H.	Wayne	24
Freshour, George	Aboit	37
Freshour, William	Wayne	20
Friblebiss, Peter	Wayne	26
Fry, Jacob	Wayne	30
Fry, Jacob, Jr.	Madison	39
Fry, Jacob, Sr.	Madison	39
Fry, William	Wayne	21
Fulk, Solomon	Eel River	43
Fulton, George	Wayne	22
Furgison, William L.	Washington	34
Furnald, Sherburn	Washington	32

1850

5

537

SCHEDULE I.—Free Inhabitants in Perry Township in the County of Allen State of Indiana enumerated by me, on the 26th day of Dec. 1850. G. W. Wood Ass't Marshal.

269

Dwelling-houses numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The Name of every Person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850, was in this family.	Description: Age.	Sex.	Color, black, or mulatto.	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Place of Birth. Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Persons over 20 yrs of age who cannot read & write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
		David Tuttle	19	M		Trucker		Ohio					1
1250		Lucy Gump	49	F				Vir.					2
		John Tucker	27	M		Laborer	100	Ohio					3
		Gustavus Gump	14	M				"					4
		Thos "	12	M				"					5
		Margaret J. "	10	F				"					6
		Robert "	8	M				"					7
1251		Samuel Foughts	33	M		Farmer	100	Penn.					8
		Mary "	62	F				W. Jersey					9
1252		Jacob F. Bolton	42	M		Farmer	160	Penn.					10
		Mary Ann "	31	F				"					11
		Jacob "	11	M				Ohio		1			12
		Jane McClure	64	M				Penn.					13
1253		James Vandolah	46	M		Farmer	400	Ohio					14
		Rebecca "	38	F				Ver.					15
		Benj "	17	M		Laborer		Ohio		1			16
		Thomas "	15	M				"		1			17
		Jane "	12	F				Ind.		1			18
		Mary "	10	F				"		1			19
		Frances "	8	F				"		1			20
		Rhoda "	6	F				"		1			21
		Silas "	3	M				"					22
1254		Reuben Tucker	61	M		Miller		Maryland					23
		Frances "	62	F				"					24
		Jane "	35	F				Ohio					25
		Samuel "	28	M		Laborer		"					26
		James McCormick	17	M				"					27
1255		Philemon Runnels	35	M		Farmer	2 500	N. York					28
		Sarah "	28	F				Ohio					29
		America "	7	F				Ind.		1			30
		John F. "	6	M				"		1			31
		Helen "	3	F				"					32
		Hester "	1	F				Ind.					33
		Mandana Spencer	11	F				N. York		1			34
1256		Nathaniel Fitch	45	M		Farmer	4000	Pennsylv.					35
		Sarah "	31	F				Ohio					36
		Perry "	9	M				Ind.		1			37
		Matthias "	8	M				"		1			38
		Mary J. "	5	F				"		1			39
		Charles "	4	M				"					40
		Amos "	2	M				Ind.					41
		Wm McKee	15	M				Ohio		1			42
			27	M		X	12,700			14			

Gump Fought Vandolah Tucker Fitch

Nathaniel Fitch
Age: 45
Estimated Birth Year: abt 1805
Birth Place: Pennsylvania
Gender: Male
Home in 1850 (City,County,State): Perry, Allen, Indiana
Family Number: 2785
Household Members: Name Age
Nathaniel Fitch 45
Sarah Fitch 31 born OH
Perry Fitch 9 born IN
Matthias Fitch 8
Mary J Fitch 5
Charles Fitch 4
Amos Fitch 2
Wm Mc Kee 15

Nathaniel Fitch
Age in 1860: 53
Birth Year: abt 1807
Birthplace: Pennsylvania
Home in 1860: Perry, Allen, Indiana
Gender: Male
Post Office: Perry
Value of real estate: $20,000
Household Members: Name Age
Nathaniel Fitch 53
Sarah Fitch 35
Perry Fitch 18
Mathias Fitch 16
Jane Fitch 14
Charles Fitch 12
Amos Fitch 10
Francela Fitch 8
Fitelia Fitch 8
Harvey Fitch 6
Allen Fitch 4
Alice Fitch 2

Nathaniel Fitch
Birth Year: abt 1806
Age in 1870: 64
Birthplace: Pennsylvania
Home in 1870: Perry, Allen, Indiana
Race: White
Gender: Male
Value of real estate: View image

Household Members: Name Age
Nathaniel Fitch 64
Mary Fitch 51 (Sarah)
Jane Fitch 25
Stevens Fitch 21
Fidelia Fitch 19
Francelia Fitch 19
Harvey Fitch 17
Sarah Fitch 15
Allen Fitch 13
Ida Fitch 11
Emmaline Fitch 9
David Fitch 5
John Fitch 18

Page No. 107

343

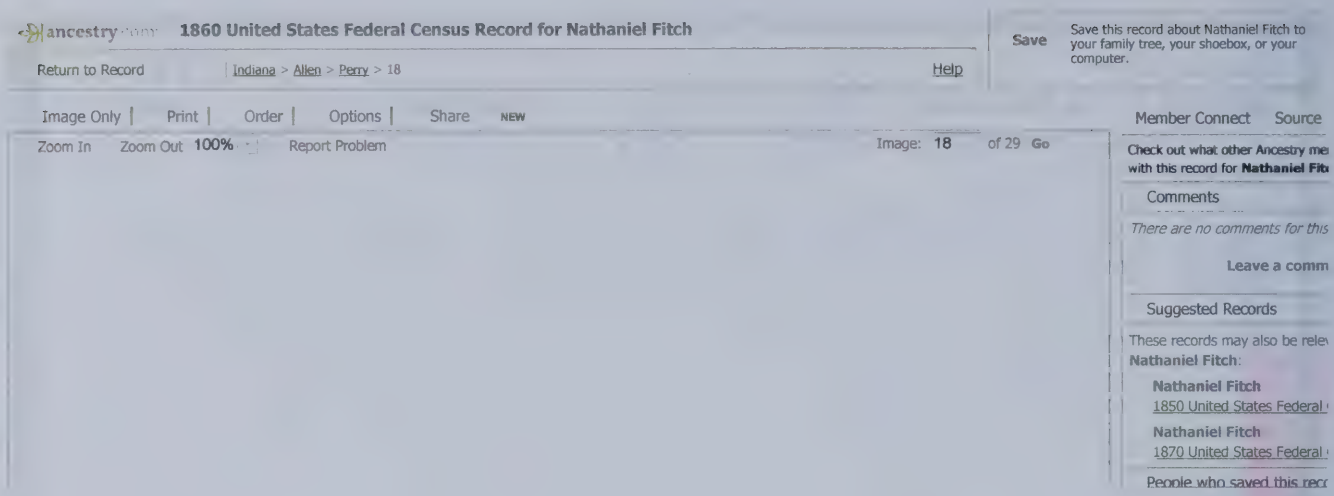
SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in Perry Township **in the County of** Perry **State of** Indiana **enumerated by me, on the** 4 **day of** July **1860.** G. W. Bare Wm. K **Ass't Marshal**

Post Office

Dwelling-houses numbered in the order of visitation	Families numbered in the order of visitation	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family	Age	Sex	Color, black, or mulatto	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	Value of Estate Owned. Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year	Attended School within the year	Persons over 20 yrs of age who cannot read & write	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1		Jno Fitch	14	M					Indiana		✓			1
2		Chas	12	M					do		✓			2
3		Jno	10	M					do		✓			3
4		Rebecca	8	F					do		✓			4
5		Lucia	8	F					do		✓			5
6		Abel	6	M					do		✓			6
7		Chas	4	M					do					7
8		Olive	2	F					do					8
9	144	Wm Hamilton	34	M		Carpenter	1800	150	Virginia					9
10		Hannah	26	F					Ohio					10
11		Amanda	5	F					Indiana		✓			11
12		Lucinda	2	F					do					12
13	145	Noah Hopkins	35	M		Farmer	1600	100	Michigan					13
14		Adam	32	M					Virginia					14
15		Martha	13	F					Indiana		✓			15
16		Louisa	12	F					do		✓			16
17		Calvin	7	M					do		✓			17
18		Silas	4	M					do					18
19		Frederick	3	M					do					19
20	146	Benjamin Bivens	36	M		Farmer	1500	250	N. York					20
21		Sarah	37	F					do					21
22		Thos M	20	M					do					22
23		Sarah	1	F					do					23
24		Charles	18	M					do		✓			24
25		Harriet	14	F					do		✓			25
26	147	Elisha Jones	29	M		Farmer	600	75	do					26
27		Lucy	28	F					Indiana					27
28		Caroline	9	F					do					28
29		Joseph	3	M					do					29
30		Martha	6	F					do					30
31	148	Wm C Parrish	48	M		Farmer	1500	300	Pennsylvania					31
32		Catharine	39	F					Virginia					32
33		Harriett	16	M		Laborer			Indiana	✓				33
34		Elizabeth	14	F					Indiana	✓				34
35		Margaret	12	F					do	✓				35
36		John	10	M					do	✓				36
37		George W	8	M					do	✓				37
38	149	Pierce Hostetter	52	M		Farmer	2000	350	Pennsylvania					38
39		Mary	49	F					do					39
40		Mildred	8	F					Ind	✓				40

No. white males, 17 No. colored males, ____ No. foreign born, ____ No. blind, ____ No. idiotic, ____

No. white females, 23 No. colored females, ____ No. deaf and dumb, ____ No. insane, ____ No. paupers, ____ No. convicts, ____


ancestry.com
1860 United States Federal Census Record for Nathaniel Fitch
Return to Record
Indiana > Allen > Perry > 18
Help
Save
Save this record about Nathaniel Fitch to your family tree, your shoebox, or your computer.
Image Only | Print | Order | Options | Share NEW
Zoom In Zoom Out 100% Report Problem
Image: 18 of 29 Go
Member Connect Source
Check out what other Ancestry me
with this record for Nathaniel Fit
Comments
There are no comments for this
Leave a comm
Suggested Records
These records may also be relev
Nathaniel Fitch:
Nathaniel Fitch
1850 United States Federal
Nathaniel Fitch
1870 United States Federal
People who saved this rec

1860 Perry Township

Page No. 106

SCHEDULE 1.—Free Inhabitants in Perry Township in the County of Allen State of Indiana enumerated by me, on the 4th day of July, 1860. D. M. Brackney Ass't Marshal.

Post Office Fort Wayne

Dwelling-houses—numbered in the order of visitation.	Families numbered in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1860, was in this family.	Age.	Sex.	Color, black, or mulatto.	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Attended School within the year.	Person over 20 years of age who cannot read & write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.
1		[illegible] Nelson	1	M					Indiana				
2		[illegible] Emma							Do				
3	737	James C. [illegible]	38	M		Farmer	2000	100	Ohio				
4	738	[illegible] Hoge	42	M		Farmer	4500	200	Ohio				
5		[illegible] C	2						Do				
6		Celane	11	M					Do				
7		Wilson	9	M					Do				
8		[illegible]	6	M					Indiana				
9		Orin	8	M					Do				
10		John	1	M					Do				
11	739	Thomas Williamson	41	M		Farmer	3000	600	Virginia				
12		[illegible]	43						Ohio				
13		[illegible]	19	M		Laborer			Do				
14		Henry	16	M		Do			Do				
15		Thomas H	14	M					Do				
16		[illegible]	3	F					Do				
17		Charlotte	8	F					Indiana				
18		Isaac	6	M					Do				
19	740	[illegible] Nash	43	M		Farmer	2000	200	New York				
20		[illegible]	40	F					Do				
21		[illegible]	18	F					Indiana				
22		[illegible]	16	M		Laborer			Do				
23		[illegible]	14	M					Do				
24		[illegible]	13	F					Do				
25		Emeline	9	F					Do				
26		Clarissa	4	F					Do				
27		[illegible]	1	F					Do				
28	741	Abel Grinshaw	40	M		Laborer		10	Canada East				
29		[illegible]	37	F					Do				
30		[illegible]	1	F					Do Perry				
31		[illegible]	9	M					Ohio				
32		[illegible]	7	F					Do				
33	742	[illegible] Price	32	M		Miller	3500	100	France				
34		[illegible]	26	F					Switzerland				
35		[illegible]	2	M					Indiana				
36		[illegible]	12	M					Do				
37	743	[illegible] Fisher	23	M		Farmer	2000	1000	Pennsylvania				
38		[illegible]	22	F					Ohio				
39		[illegible]	1	M		Farmer			Indiana				
40		[illegible]	10	M					Do				

No. white males, ____ No. colored males, ____ No. foreign born, ____ No. blind, ____ 29 [illegible] 5 [illegible] No. idiotic, ____

No. white females, ____ No. colored females, ____ No. deaf and dumb, ____ No. insane, ____ No. paupers, ____ No. convicts, ____

Page No. 28

☞ Inquiries numbered 7, 16, and 17 are not to be asked in respect to infants. Inquiries numbered 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 19, and 20 are to be answered (if at all) merely by an affirmative mark, as /.

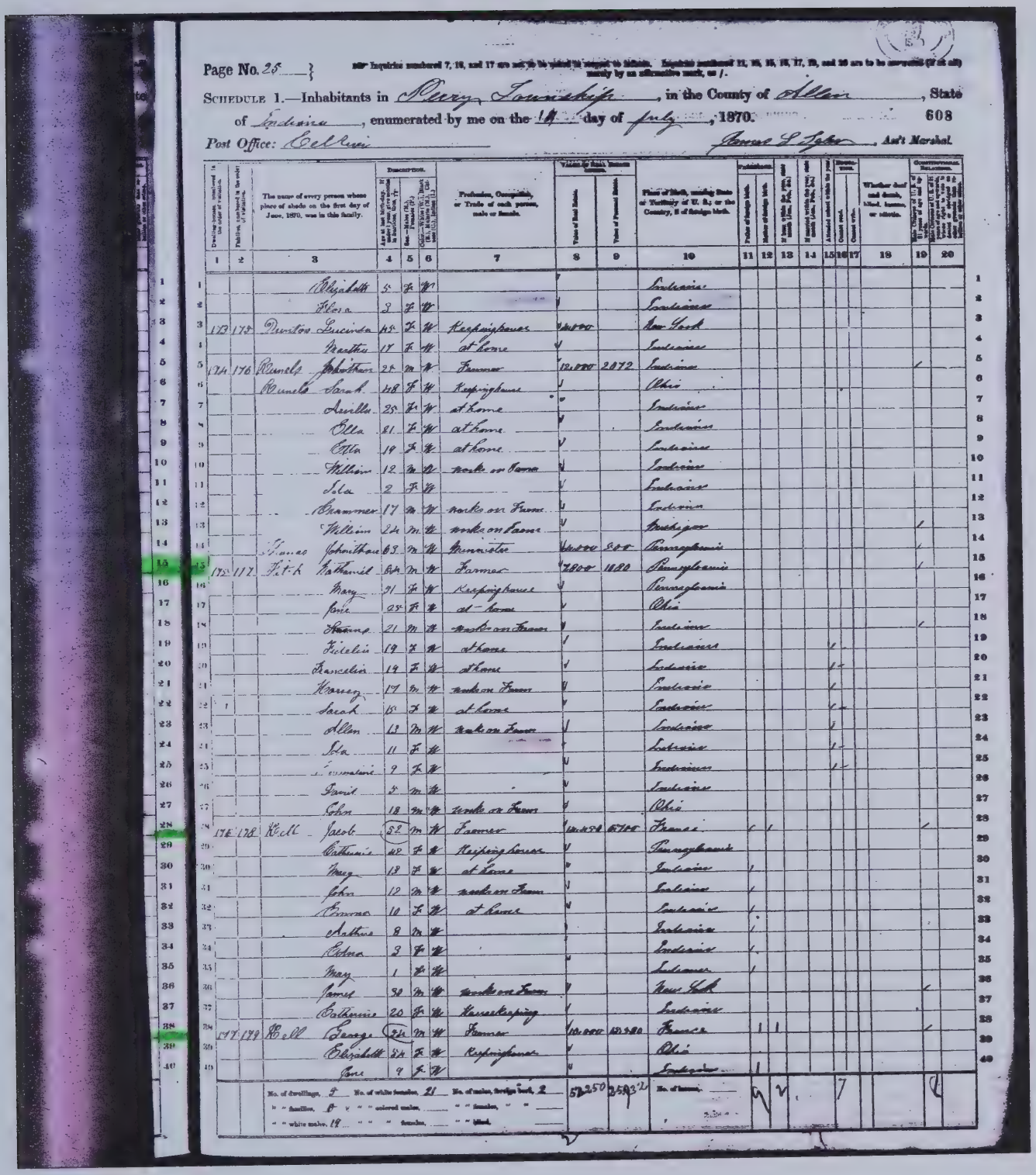
SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Perry Township, in the County of Allen, State of Indiana, enumerated by me on the 14 day of July, 1870. 608

Post Office: Cedarville

James L Tyler, Ass't Marshal.

Dwelling-houses, numbered in the order of visitation.	Families, numbered in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June, 1870, was in this family.	DESCRIPTION. Age at last birthday. If under 1 year, give months in fraction. Male, yr.	DESCRIPTION. Sex—Males (M.); Females (F.).	DESCRIPTION. Color—White (W.); Black (B.); Mulatto (M.); Chinese (C.); Indian (I.).	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED. Value of Real Estate.	VALUE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED. Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.	PARENTAGE. Father of foreign birth.	PARENTAGE. Mother of foreign birth.	If born within the year, state month (Jan., Feb., &c.)	If married within the year, state month (Jan., Feb., &c.)	EDUCATION. Attended school within the year.	EDUCATION. Cannot read.	EDUCATION. Cannot write.	Whether deaf and dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	CONSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS. Male Citizens of U. S. of 21 years of age and upwards.	CONSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS. Male Citizens of U. S. of 21 years of age and upwards whose right to vote is denied or abridged on other grounds than rebellion or crime.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
		Elizabeth	5	F	W				Indiana											1
		Flora	3	F	W				Indiana											2
173	175	Denton Lucinda	45	F	W	Keeping house	40000		New York											3
		Martha	17	F	W	at home			Indiana											4
174	176	Runels Johathan	25	M	W	Farmer	12000	2072	Indiana									/		5
		Runels Sarah	48	F	W	Keeping house			Ohio											6
		Arilla	25	F	W	at home			Indiana											7
		Ella	21	F	W	at home			Indiana											8
		Etta	19	F	W	at home			Indiana											9
		Wilbin	12	M	W	work on Farm			Indiana											10
		Sola	2	F	W				Indiana											11
		Cranmer	17	M	W	work on Farm			Indiana											12
		Wilbin	24	M	W	work on Farm			Michigan									/		13
		Thomas Johnithan	63	M	W	Minister	40000	800	Pennsylvania									/		14
175	177	Fitch Nathaniel	64	M	W	Farmer	7800	1680	Pennsylvania									/		15
		Mary	31	F	W	Keeping house			Pennsylvania											16
		Jane	25	F	W	at home			Ohio											17
		Thomp	21	M	W	work on Farm			Indiana									/		18
		Fidelia	19	F	W	at home			Indiana						/					19
		Franclin	14	F	W	at home			Indiana						/					20
		Harvey	17	M	W	work on Farm			Indiana						/					21
		Sarah	15	F	W	at home			Indiana						/					22
		Allen	13	M	W	work on Farm			Indiana						/					23
		Sola	11	F	W				Indiana						/					24
		[illegible]	9	F	W				Indiana						/					25
		David	7	M	W				Indiana											26
		John	18	M	W	work on Farm			Ohio											27
176	178	Welt Jacob	52	M	W	Farmer	12458	6700	France	/	/							/		28
		Catharine	48	F	W	Keeping house			Pennsylvania											29
		Mary	13	F	W	at home			Indiana	/										30
		John	12	M	W	work on Farm			Indiana	/										31
		Emma	10	F	W	at home			Indiana	/										32
		Arthur	8	M	W				Indiana	/										33
		Edna	3	F	W				Indiana	/										34
		Mary	1	F	W				Indiana	/										35
		James	30	M	W	work on Farm			New York									/		36
		Catharine	20	F	W	Housekeeping			Indiana											37
177	179	Kell George	54	M	W	Farmer	10000	12380	France	/	/							/		38
		Elizabeth	52	F	W	Keeping house			Ohio											39
		Jane	4	F	W				Indiana	/										40
		No. of dwellings, 2 No. of white females, 21 No. of males, foreign born, 2					52250	25932	No. of insane, —	9	12			17				9		

1870



Page No. 25

Schedule 1.—Inhabitants in Perry Township, in the County of Allen, State of Indiana, enumerated by me on the 14 day of July, 1870. 608

Post Office: Edgerton

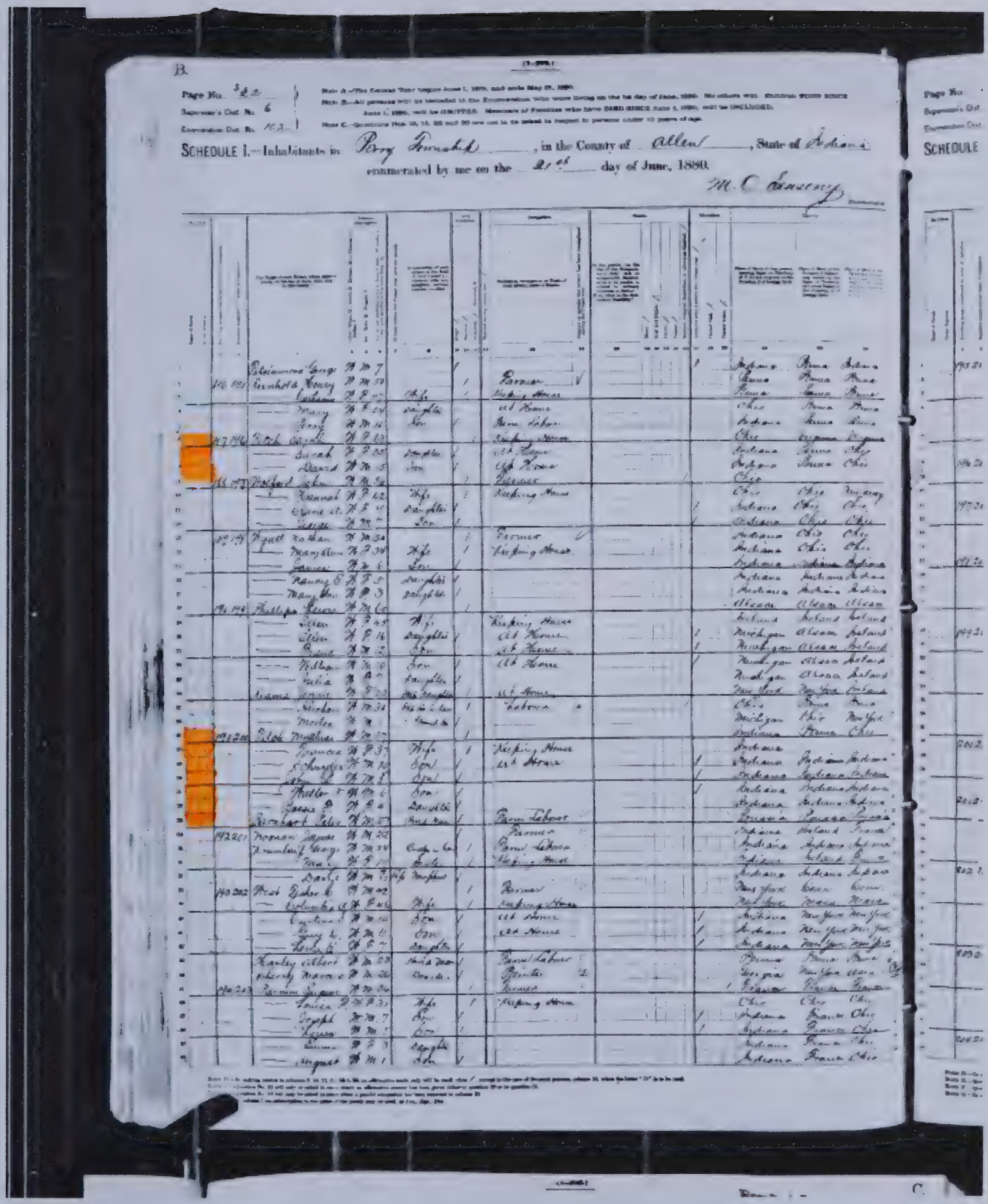
James L Tyler, Ass't Marshal.

Dwelling-houses, numbered in the order of visitation.	Families, numbered in the order of visitation.	The name of every person whose place of abode on the first day of June, 1870, was in this family.	Age at last birthday. If under 1 year, give months.	Sex — Males (M.) Females (F.)	Color — White (W.), Black (B.), Mulatto (M.), Chinese (C.), Indian (I.)	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male or female.	Value of Real Estate.	Value of Personal Estate.	Place of Birth, naming State or Territory of U. S.; or the Country, if of foreign birth.	Persons over 20 years of age who cannot read.	Persons over 20 years of age who cannot write.	Deaf-mutes, Blind, Insane, or Idiotic.	Whether Deaf and Dumb, Blind, Insane, or Idiotic.	Male Citizens of U. S. 21 years of age and upwards.	Male Citizens of U. S. 21 years of age and upwards.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		Elizabeth	5	F	W				Indiana						
		Flora	3	F	W				Indiana						
173	173	Dunton Lucinda	45	F	W	Keeping house	12000		New York						
		Martha	17	F	W	at home			Indiana						
174	176	Rumely Johnathan	28	M	W	Farmer	12000	2872	Indiana						✓
		Rumely Sarah	48	F	W	Keeping house			Ohio						
		Lucilla	25	F	W	at home			Indiana						
		Ella	21	F	W	at home			Indiana						
		Etta	19	F	W	at home			Indiana						
		William	12	M	W	works on Farm			Indiana						
		Ida	2	F	W				Indiana						
		Brammer	17	M	W	works on Farm			Indiana						
		William	24	M	W	works on Farm			Michigan						✓
		James Johnathan	63	M	W	Minister	10000	800	Pennsylvania						✓
175	177	Fisher Nathaniel	64	M	W	Farmer	7800	1180	Pennsylvania						✓
		Mary	31	F	W	Keeping house			Pennsylvania						
		Pete	25	F	W	at home			Ohio						
		Hanna	21	M	W	works on Farm			Indiana						✓
		Fidelia	19	F	W	at home			Indiana						
		Cornelia	19	F	W	at home			Indiana						
		Harvey	17	M	W	works on Farm			Indiana						
		Sarah	15	F	W	at home			Indiana						
		Allen	13	M	W	works on Farm			Indiana						
		Ida	11	F	W				Indiana						
		Permelia	9	F	W				Indiana						
		David	5	M	W				Indiana						
		John	18	M	W	works on Farm			Ohio						
176	178	Kell Jacob	52	M	W	Farmer	10650	6700	France						✓
		Catharine	42	F	W	Keeping house			Pennsylvania						
		Mary	18	F	W	at home			Indiana						
		John	12	M	W	works on Farm			Indiana						
		Emma	10	F	W	at home			Indiana						
		Arthur	8	M	W				Indiana						
		Edna	3	F	W				Indiana						
		May	1	F	W				Indiana						
		James	32	M	W	works on Farm			New York						✓
		Catharine	20	F	W	housekeeping			Indiana						
177	179	Kell George	24	M	W	Farmer	10000	15580	France						✓
		Elizabeth	24	F	W	Keeping house			Ohio						
		Jane	9	F	W				Indiana						

No. of dwellings, 5 — No. of white families, 21 — No. of males, [illegible] 2 — 57250 — 35932

" " families, 5 " " colored males, ____ " " females, ____ — No. of Insane, ____ — 9 — 2 — 7 — 4

" " white males, 19 " " females, ____ " " blind, ____



B.

Page No. 342
Supervisor's Dist. No. 6
Enumeration Dist. No. 103

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Perry Township, in the County of Allen, State of Indiana, enumerated by me on the 21st day of June, 1880.

M. C. Sweeney
Enumerator.

C.



B.

Page No. 22

Supervisor's Dist. No. 6

Enumeration Dist. No. 102

Note A.—The Census Year begins June 1, 1879, a

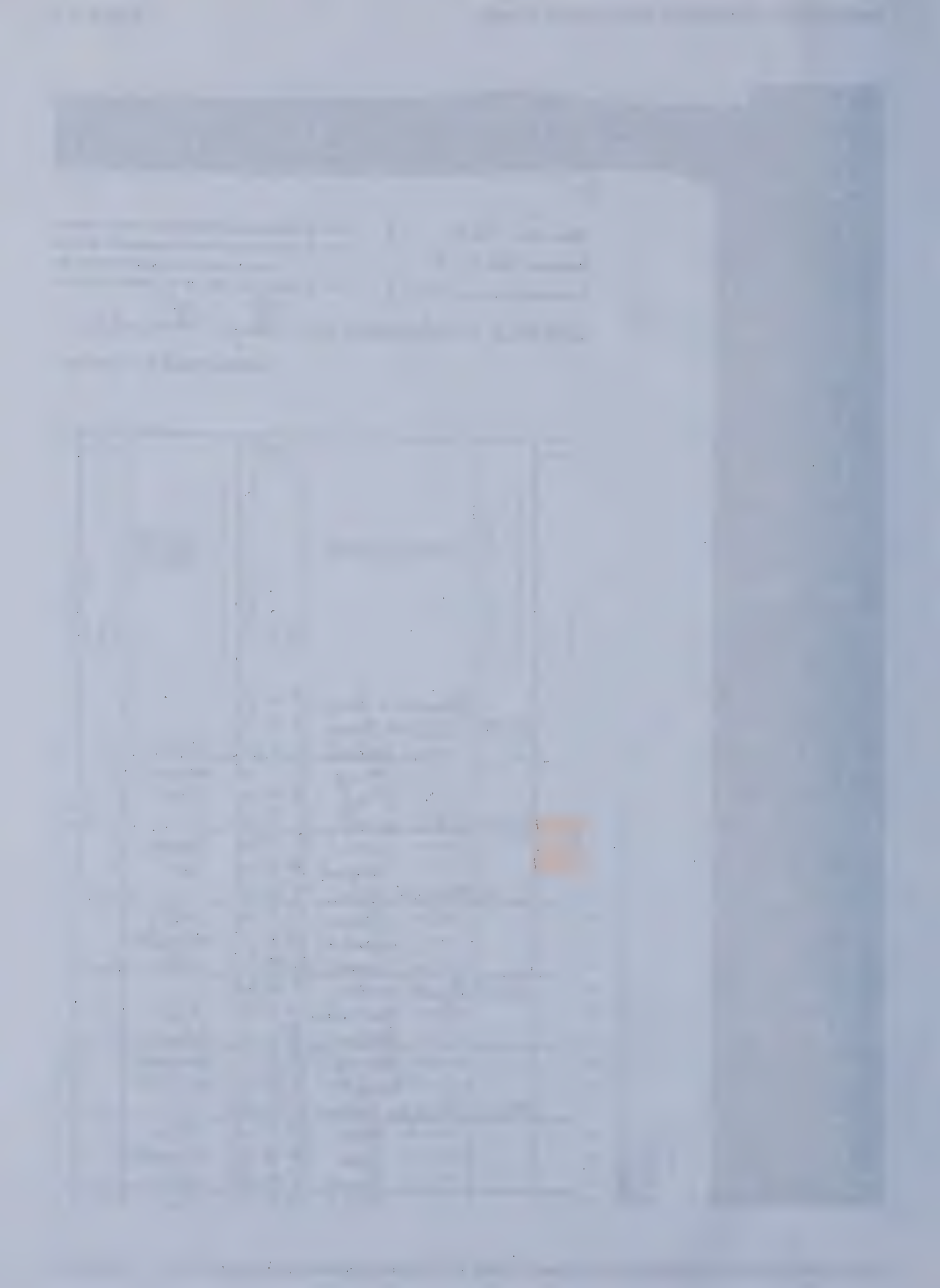
Note B.—All persons will be included in the Ent
June 1, 1880, will be OMITTED. Ne

Note C.—Questions Nos. 13, 14, 22 and 23 are no

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in Perry Township

enumerated by me on

	Name of Street	House Number	Dwelling Houses numbered in order of visitation	Families numbered in order of visitation	The Name of each Person whose place of abode on the 1st day of June, 1880, was in this family.	Relation — Wife, Son, Daughter, Servant, Boarder, &c.	Sex — Male, M. Female, F.	Age last birthday prior to the June 1, 1880. If under 1 year, give the months, thus 6/12	If born within the Census year, give the month.	Relationship of each person to the head of the family — whether wife, son, daughter, servant, boarder, or other	Whether Married	Whether Widowed	Whether Divorced	Whether Attending School within the year
			3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1					Pittsinnons George	W	M	7						
2			116	195	Reinhold Henry	W	M	50				/		
3					—— Catharine	W	F	47		Wife		/		
4					—— Mary	W	F	24		daughter	/			
5					—— Perry	W	M	18		Son	/			
6			117	196	Fitch Sarah	W	F	63					/	
7					—— Sarah	W	F	25		daughter	/			
8					—— David	W	M	15		Son	/			
9			118	197	Wolford John	W	M	56				/		
10					—— Hannah	W	F	42		Wife		/		
11					—— Clarie A.	W	F	9		daughter	/			
12					—— George	W	M	7		Son	/			
13			119	198	Hyatt Nathan	W	M	30				/		
14					—— Mary Ann	W	F	34		Wife		/		
15					—— James	W	M	6		Son	/			
16					—— Nancy E	W	F	5		daughter	/			
17					—— Mary Ann	W	F	3		daughter	/			
18			120	199	Phillips Lewis	W	M	66				/		
19					—— Ellen	W	F	45		Wife		/		
20					—— Ellen	W	F	16		daughter	/			
21					—— Brand	W	M	12		Son	/			
22					—— M. H.	W	M	10		Son	/			



WAR TOOK ALL ITS STUDENTS

Old Seminary Now Sturdy Barn



HIS BARN WAS A SCHOOL HOUSE—Walter Kell, Allen County farmer of near Huntertown, examines some of the closely-spaced heavy-duty studding in his barn, which once was a school house. Though the building was built in about 1856 and has been torn down and reconstructed at a different location since then, the studding still bears lathe and plaster marks.

By MARSHALL LINCOLN

Although Walter Kell's livestock probably haven't appreciated it, his barn used to be a school house.

Kell, a farmer northwest of Huntertown and a former Indiana county agent, explained that his grandfather, Jacob Kell, was one of three men who incorporated the Perry Center Seminary. Others who sponsored the school in 1856 were Nathaniel Fitch and George Gloyd.

Originally the school was south of Kell's farm. It was similar to what we now call a high school, and among the subjects taught were higher mathematics, philosophy and astronomy.

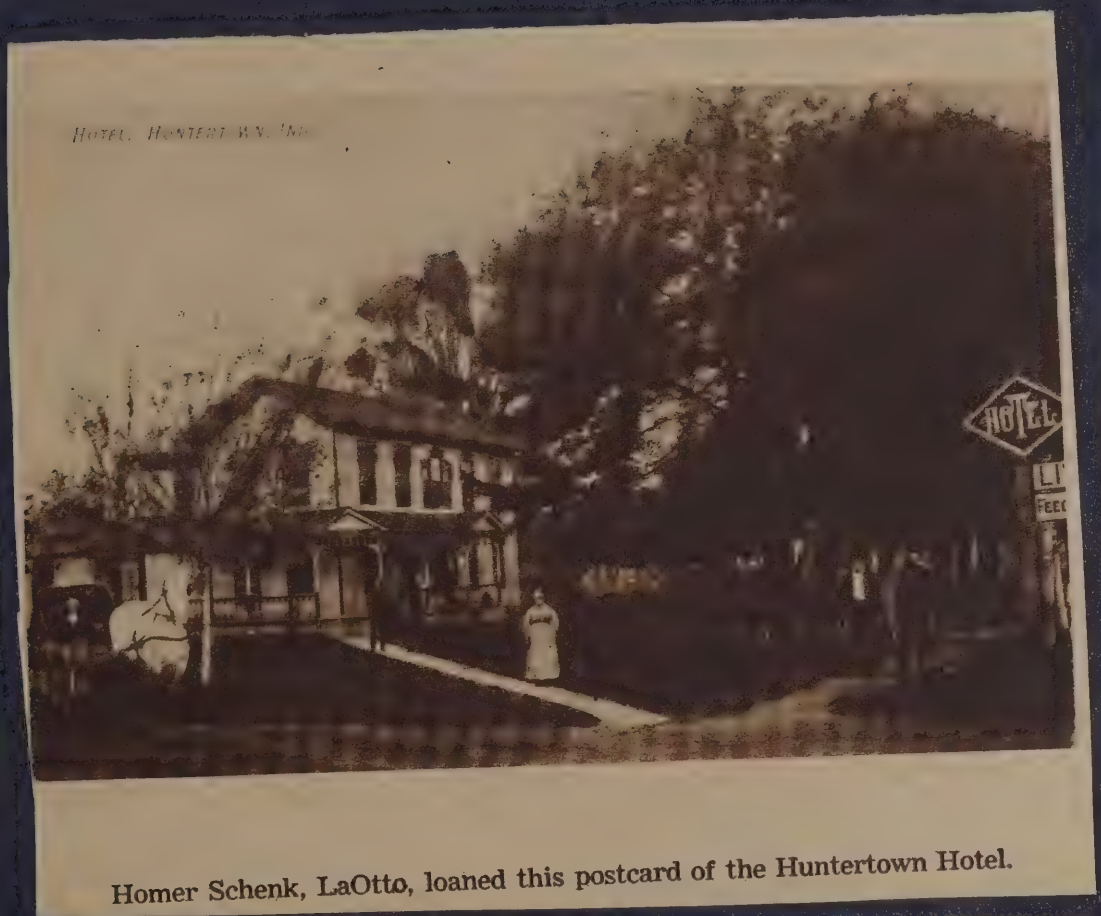
Prof. T. W. Tilden was the teacher, and by 1860 the school had grown in enrollment enough to hire two assistants. Pupils came from Noble, DeKalb, Allen, LaGrange and other neighboring counties.

The civil war proved the downfall of the seminary, for most of the pupils dropped out in 1862-3 to enter the Army. Tilden resigned as teacher and the building fell into disuse until about 1876, when it was torn down, moved to its present site and reconstructed to serve as a barn.

The two-story structure was made in the days when things were built to last. The heavy studding is closely-spaced and the roof has an elaborate beam-truss arrangement that helped make the barn solid as a rock. So solid, in fact, that according to Kell it has withstood two cyclones.

Although built nearly a hundred years ago, it has lumber with as fine tongue-and-groove workmanship as is turned out by today's fancy machines.

The roof has been replaced, but most of the rest of the building has its original materials, including inch-thick walnut boards which form the partitions in the grain bins. These boards used to be behind the blackboards, Kell explained.



Homer Schenk, LaOtto, loaned this postcard of the Huntertown Hotel.


ERS



This portion of the Wabash and Erie Canal remained in 1890 according to "Art Work of Fort Wayne" loaned by A. C. Ferber, 219 East Leith St.

Nathaniel made the iron locks for the canal 1830-40



At one of her zany parties, Mame is toasted by her unusual guests. Mame, of course, is Angela Lansbury.

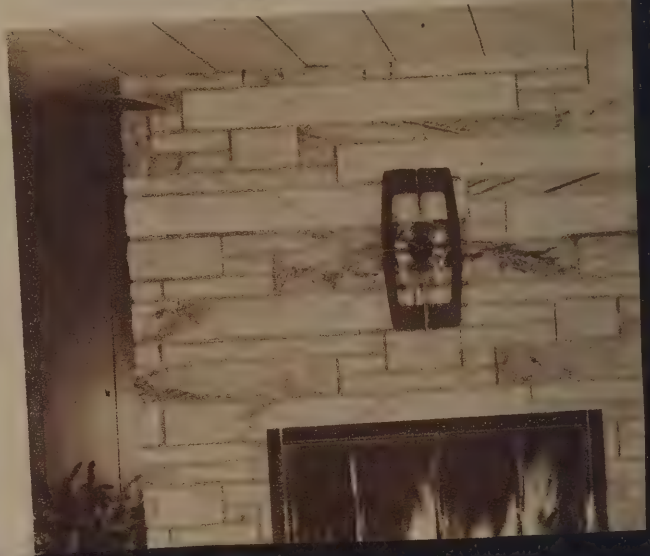
NOW IMPROVED!



SUN STOP Transparent — Frosted

WINDOW COATINGS

A Lifetime of Service and B
With THERMO-RIT



The Sons of Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch

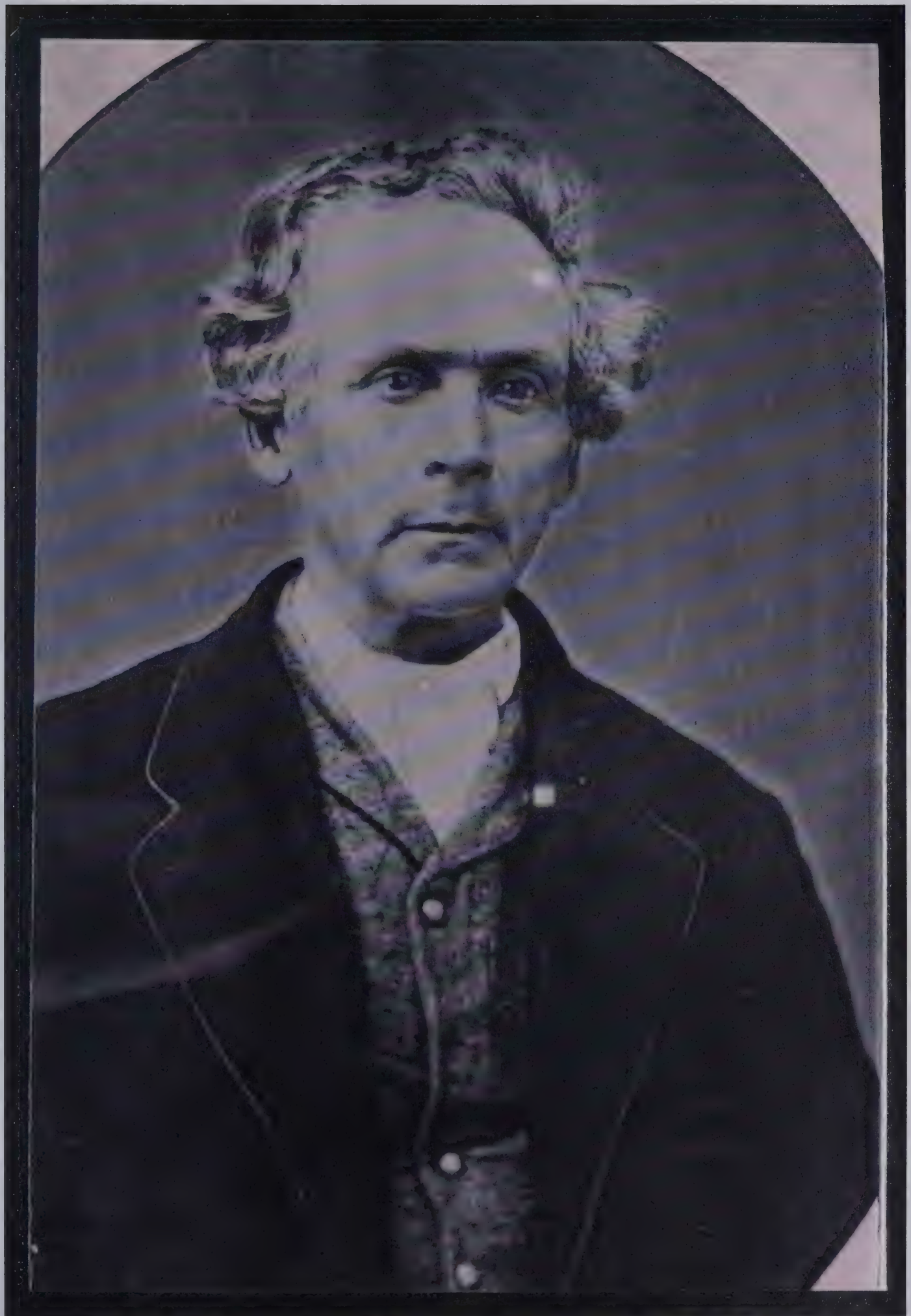
Front Row: Charles Fitch, Amos Fitch, Mathias Fitch, Perry Fitch and David Nathaniel Fitch.

Back Row: Harvey Fitch, Jefferson Sickler (a first cousin from PA), And Allen Fitch.

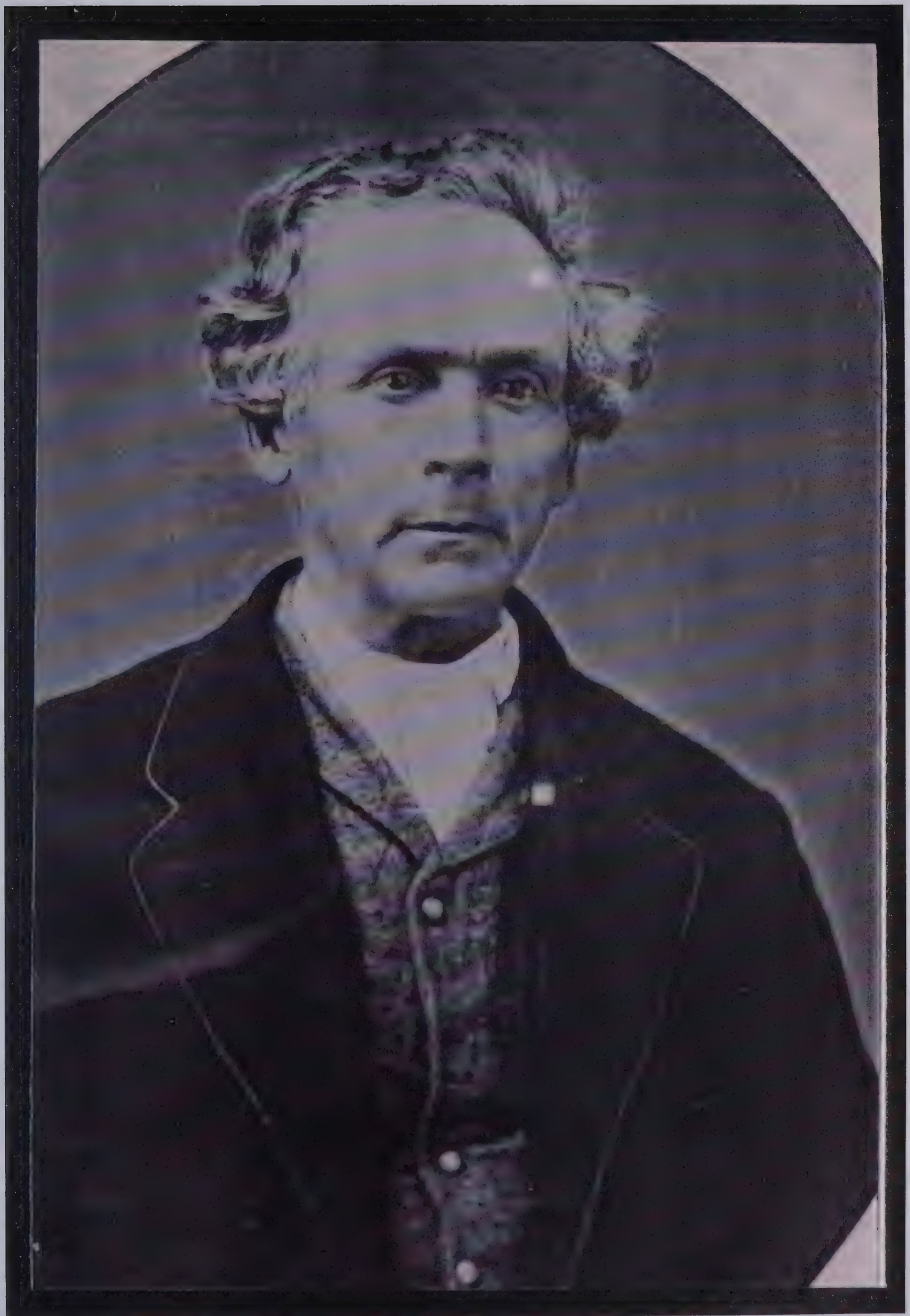
Charles, age 28
Amos, age 25
Mathias, age 31
Perry, age 32
David, age 9
Harvey, age 21
Jefferson Sickler, age 31
Allen, age 17

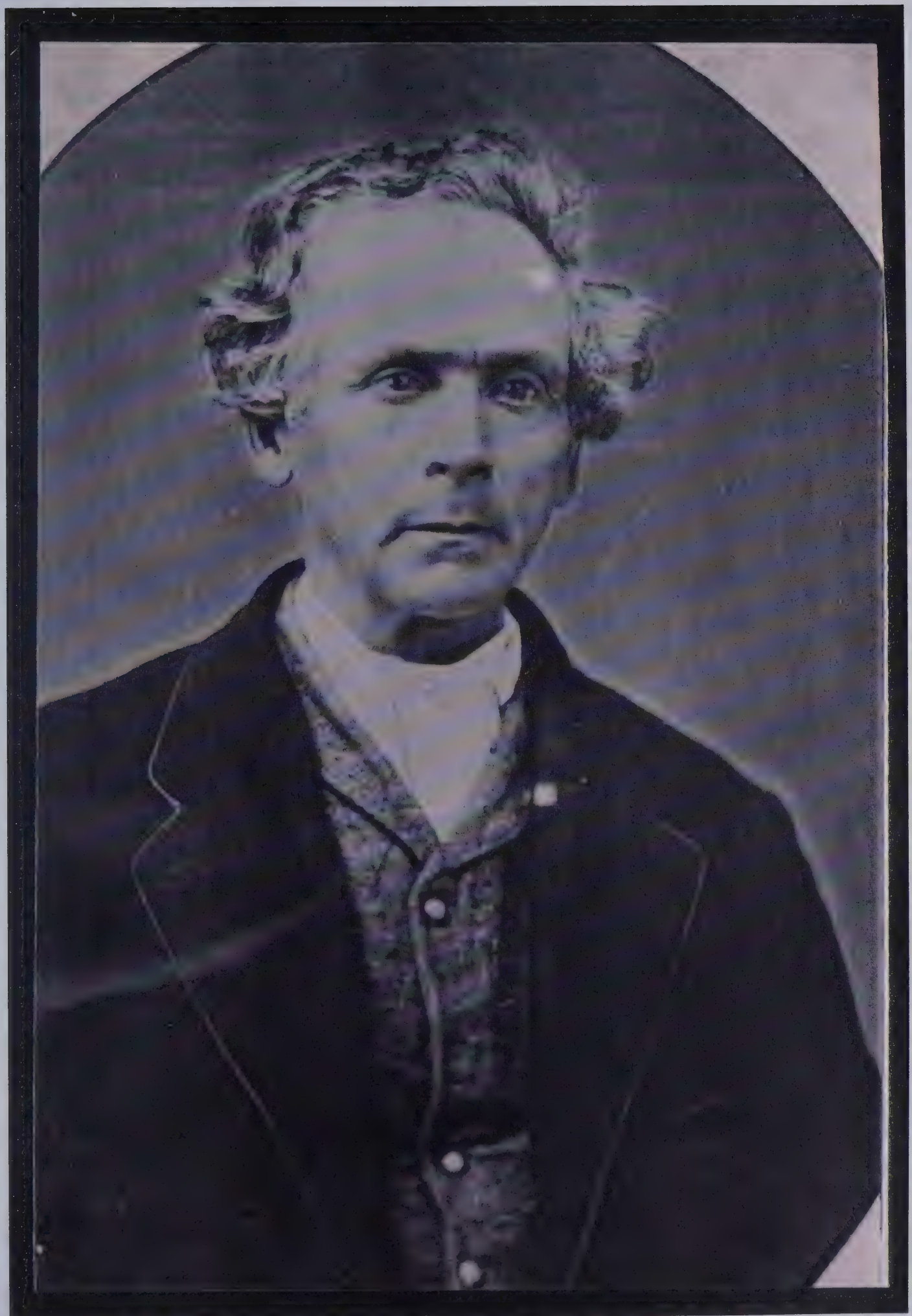
Jefferson Sickler was the son of Nathaniel's sister, Sarah and of John Sickler. Jefferson married Mary Jane Hand of the Perry Township Hand family.













Nathaniel Fitch house



BARN is falling down

2006





Nathaniel Fitch Homestead







Sarah and her cow

Blacksmith Shop

Stoner's Mill 1894









Nathaniel's First Land from the Gov.- Allen Co

Gump Rd.

MAP OF PERRY TOWNSHIP

Cemetery - Nathaniel / Mathins

OLD Homestead

- Fitch Mill

T 32 N. R 12 E

Stoner Mill

Nathaniel homestead land

FAIR land

DeLong land

PARK to Fitch

Nathaniel's First Land from the Gov. - Allen Co

Gump Rd.

MAP OF PERRY TOWNSHIP

Cem... - Nathaniel / Mathias

OLD Homestead

- Fitch Mill

T 32 N. R 12 E

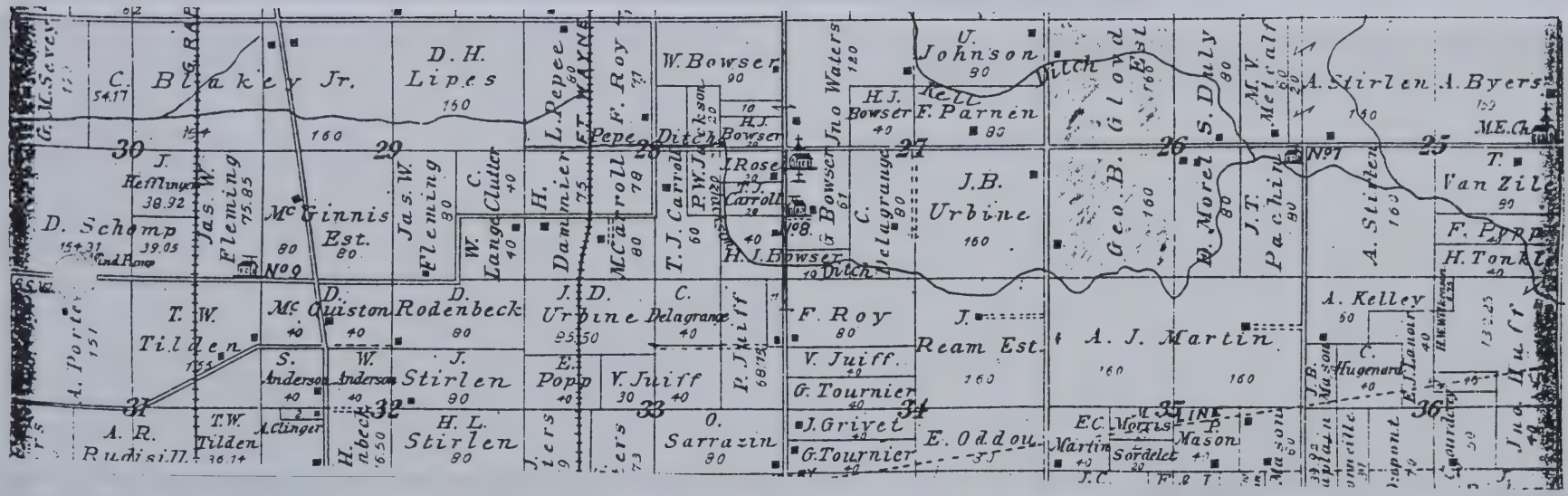
Stoner (Mill)

Nathaniel homestead land

FAIR land

DeLong land

PARK to Fitch


C. Blakey Jr.
D. H. Lipes
W. Bowser
U. Johnson
A. Stirlen
A. Byers
D. Schomp
Jas. W. Fleming
Mc Ginnis Est.
Jas. W. Fleming
C. Clutter
H. Dammier
Mc Carroll
T. J. Carroll
P. W. Jackson
I. Rose
T. J. Carroll
H. J. Bowser
Jno Waters
H. J. Bowser
F. Parnen
Ditch
Geo. B.
R. Morel
J. T. Pachin
T. Van Zile
F. Perry
H. Tonkle
T. W. Tilden
Mc Quiston
D. Rodenbeck
J. D. Urbine
C. Delagrange
F. Roy
J. B. Urbine
A. Kelley
A. J. Martin
S. Anderson
W. Anderson
J. Stirlen
E. Popp
V. Juiff
P. Juiff
V. Juiff
G. Tournier
J. Griyet
G. Tournier
Ream Est.
E. Oddou
C. Hugenard
A. R. Rudisill
T. W. Tilden
A. Clinger
H. L. Stirlen
O. Sarrazin
E. C. Morris
Martin Sordelet
Mason
30
29
28
27
26
25
31
32
33
34
35
36

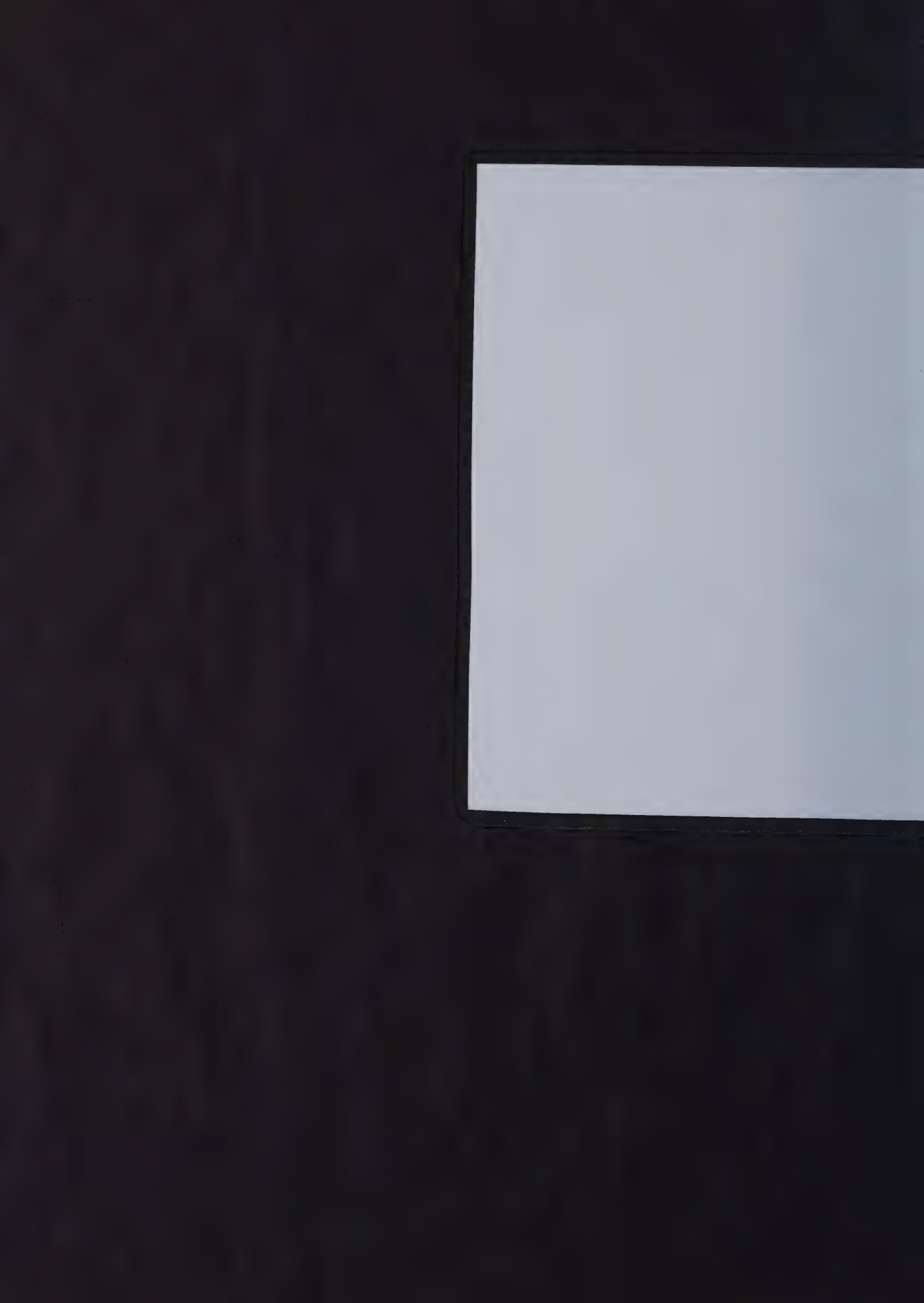
GRANDMA FITCH DIES 1818-1908

The venerable mother of Mrs. Allen Hartzell passed away at Huntertown Wednesday morning. At the last Fitch reunion held two months ago it could be seen that Grandma Fitch could not long survive. Past the age of 90, she had reached the time when any minute might bring the summons. She had always been strong , but age overcomes strength. While sitting in bed receiving attention from members of the family, the aged head bent forward, a sigh escaped the lips and the spirit was gone.

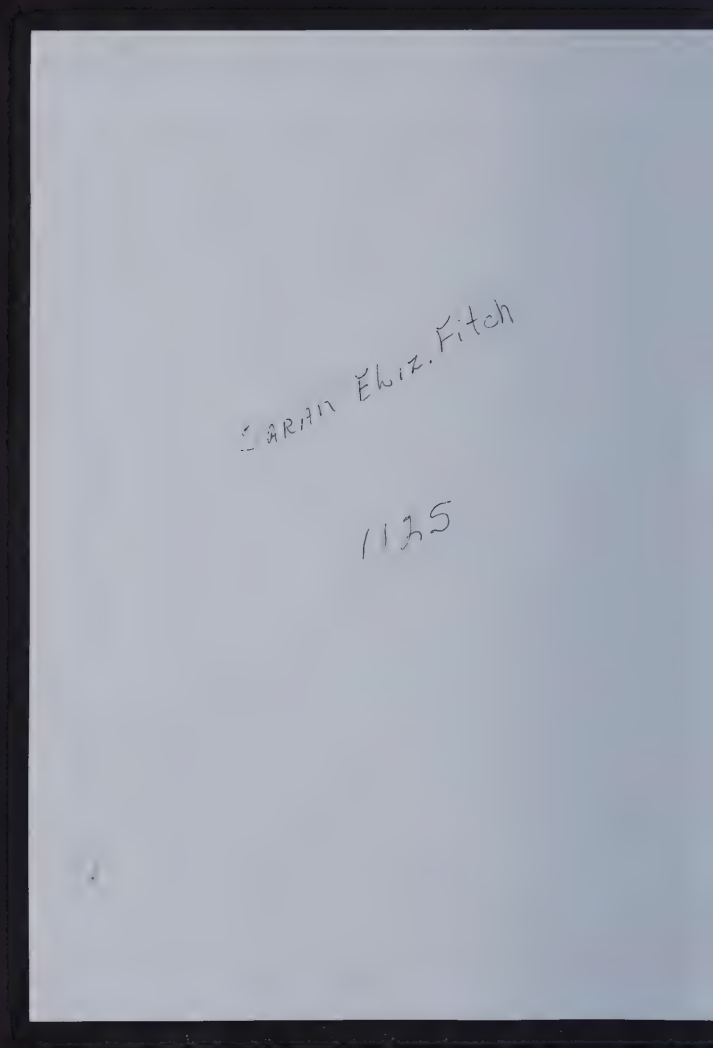
Mrs. Fitch was born in 1818 in Miami County, Ohio. In 1840 she was married to Nathaniel Fitch and they settled in Perry township where she resided ever since. The husband died in 1877. Fourteen children were born to them, twelve of whom still live. She was a member of the M.E. Church at Huntertown and the funeral will be held from that place Friday. Rev. E. A. Bunner will conduct the service/ She was a good woman, universally loved. Her passing away was in compliance with the law of nature, but the influence of Christian spirit will live eternally.

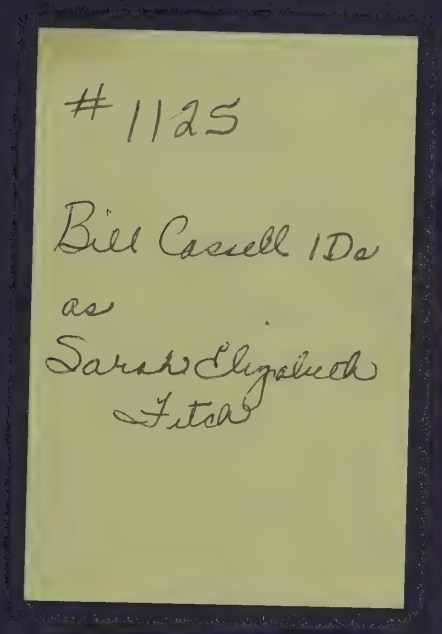
The surviving children are Mathias Fitch of Huntertown, Mrs. J. F. Beers, of Holly, Colorado, Charles and Allen Fitch of St. Paul, Amos Fitch of New Era, Indiana, Mrs. Christian Fair of Alden, Kansas, Mrs. A. M. Hartzell of New Haven, Harvey Fitch of Huntertown, Dr. David Fitch of Auburn, Mrs. Dr. M. A. Mason, Mrs. J. D. Gloyd and Mrs. Sarah E. Stratton of Fort Wayne. There are 46 grand children and 27 great-grandchildren.

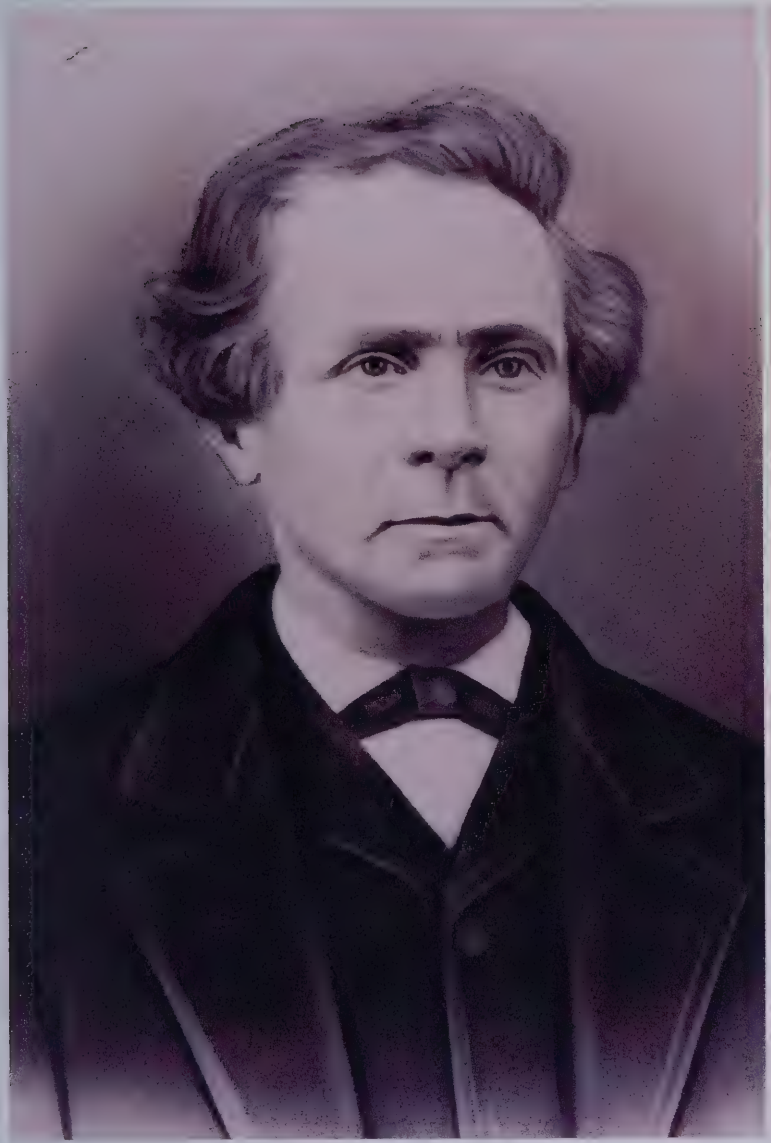

Barrows
Superior Finish
62 & 64 Calhoun St.
FT. WAYNE, IND.






Sarah Eliz. Fitch
1125


#1125
Bill Cassell 1Da
as
Sarah Elizabeth
Fitch







Coverlet made by Nathaniel Fitch



Tablecloth made by Nathaniel Fitch

notes on back from Alice Deck

Coverlet, Very lovely fruit basket motif for border. It is very heavy. Done in two strips and joined in the center. Has sustained some moth damage. Marybelle sewed a cotton band (zig-zag stitch) on the top edge for strength, apparently. I think I could remove it, don't know if it was damaged underneath or not.

Note from Alice Deck...

Tablecloth is very fine cotton, very tightly woven. Intricate bar-squared pattern, stained and ripped in places. Probably used at early reunions?

Remember the story of Nathaniel's weaving banging the walls that made the cakes in the oven fall?

P.S. Picture still in my camera

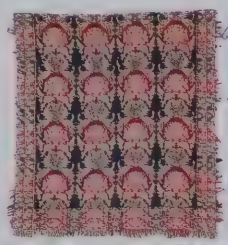
Sept. 1, 1994

Dear Betty

yes, I have recently acquired the Nathaniel Fitch Coverlet - as of the reunion! MaryBelle Hansen Bregren (Ellen Fitch daughter) brought it to me then. She had probably gotten it from her Mother → Dard Fitch. MaryBelle had repaired it and tried to use it but it is very heavy and gave her husband Dave the itches. We don't know what year Nathaniel worked on it - but I can imagine that his own wool was probably used in it because another blanket that was at the reunion said it was made from their own wool. I would think it was done late in his life because it is a masterpiece. That's all I know! I got it because MaryBelle didn't want to store it any more. Now I don't know what to do with it. Dan

Will work it out today

I also have a red white + blue tablecloth N. did that my Dad had. It was at the reunion also. I wish I'd talked to you. I too love old fabrics. Perhaps we could meet again sometime. Hope so. Wayne isn't for! I'm trying to learn more about coverlets



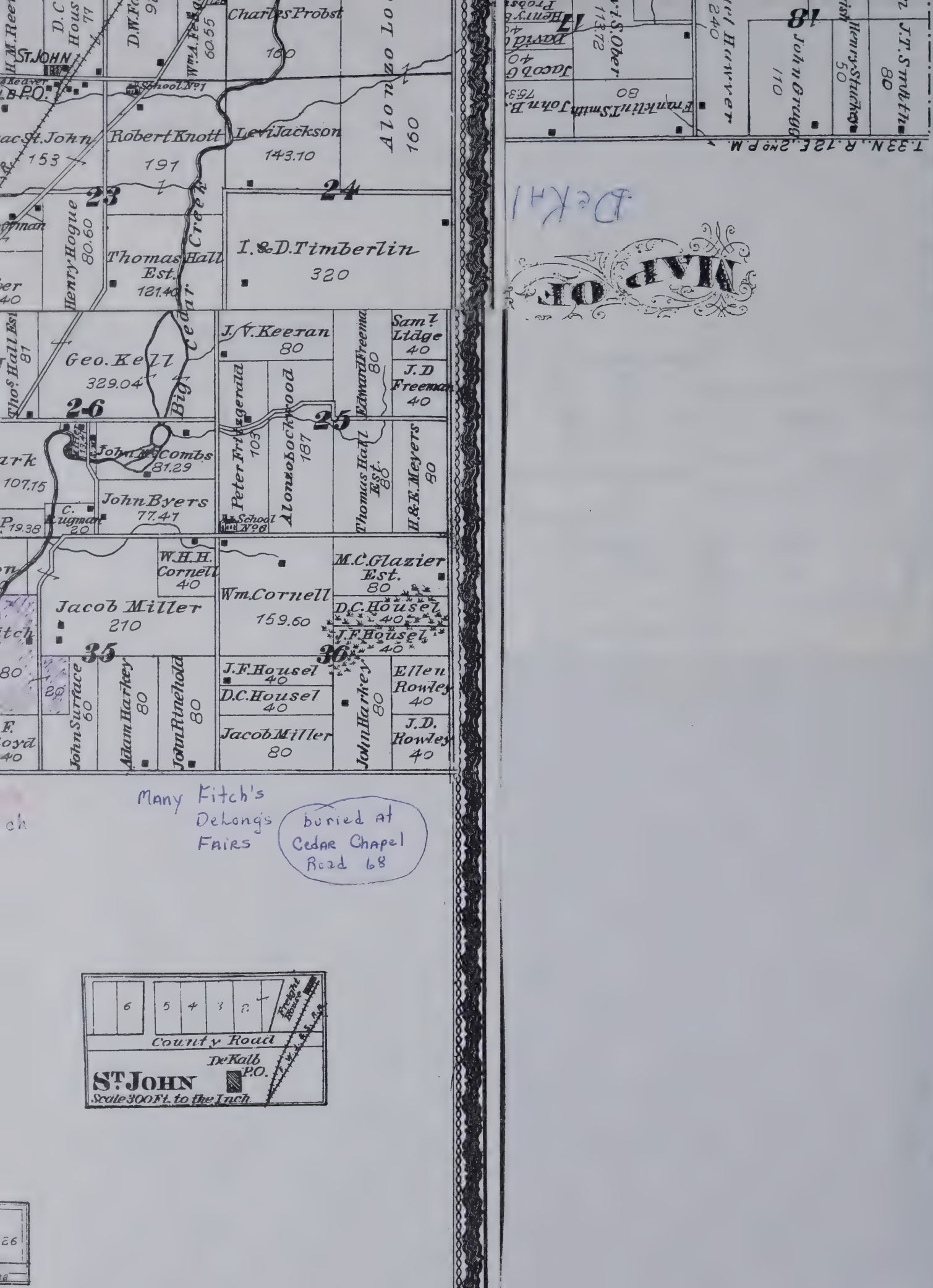
COVERLET (front detail)
Weaver unidentified, American 19th century
Weave structure—Double Weave
Natural cotton; blue and red wool
Two loom widths joined, 86 x 77 inches

©1992, The Don and Jean Stuck Coverlet Collection
Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio

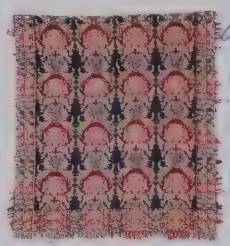
Published by Galison Books,
36 West 44th Street, NY, NY 10036 2089/135
Printed in Hong Kong

love
I'd like to visit Columbus—
Alice & the Dick




T.33N. R.12E. 2ND P.M.
MAP OF
St. John
Charles Probst
100
Alonzo Lo
160
Robert Knott
191
Levi Jackson
143.10
153
23
24
Henry Hogue
80.60
Thomas Hall Est.
121.40
I. & D. Timberlin
320
Big Cedar Cr.
Geo. Kell
329.04
26
J. V. Keeran
80
Sam'l Lidge
40
J. D Freeman
40
Edward Freeman
80
Peter Fitzgerald
105
Alonzo Lockwood
187
25
Thomas Hall Est.
80
H. & E. Meyers
90
John McCombs
81.29
John Byers
77.41
School No 8
C. Lugmar
20
W. H. H. Cornell
40
M. C. Glazier Est.
80
Wm. Cornell
159.60
D. C. Housel
40
J. F. Housel
40
Jacob Miller
210
35
36
J. F. Housel
40
D. C. Housel
40
Jacob Miller
80
Ellen Rowley
40
J. D. Rowley
40
John Surface
60
Adam Harkey
80
John Rinehold
80
John Harkey
80
Many Fitch's
Dekong's
FAIRS
buried at
Cedar Chapel
Road 68
6
5
4
3
2
1
Forest Home Cem.
County Road
DeKalb
P.O.
ST. JOHN
Scale 300 Ft. to the Inch

I also have a red wonto + blue tablecloth N. did that my Dad had. It was at the reunion, also. I wish I'd talked to you - I too love old fabrics. Perhaps we could meet again at Wayne sometime - don't wait for it! I'm trying to learn more about coverlets



COVERLET (front detail)
Weaver unidentified, American 19th century
Weave structure—Double Weave
Natural cotton; blue and red wool
Two loom widths joined, 86 x 77 inches

©1992, The Don and Jean Stuck Coverlet Collection
Columbus Museum of Art, Ohio

Published by Galison Books,
36 West 44th Street, NY, NY 10036 2089/135
Printed in Hong Kong

Love
I'd like to visit Columbus while I'm there. Dick



MAP OF BUTLER TOWNSHIP.

DeKalb Co

T. 33 N., R. 12 E. 2nd P.M.

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile

CEDAR CREEK

NEW ERA

DE KALB P.O.

ST. JOHN

Little Cedar Creek

Big Cedar Creek

Black Cr.

F.E.L. RIVER

R.R.

GRAND RAPIDS & INDIANA R.R.

WARREN went to school #5
Called 5 points
And at Hague School #3

Otis Fitch
John Fitch
Highway 27

Perry Fitch

Many Fitch's
DeLong's
Fairs

buried at
Cedar Chapel
Road 68

1804 - 85

CEDAR CREEK STA.

Scale 300 Ft. to the Inch

175 Ft. R-R. Grounds

E.F.L. RIVER

50 Ft. Right of way

NEW ERA

Scale 300 Ft. to Inch

NORTH ST.

JACKSON ST.

LA FAYETTE ST.

MAIN ST.

WASHINGTON ST.

CENTER ST.

ST. JOHN

Scale 300 Ft. to the Inch

County Road

DeKalb P.O.

CEDAR CREEK STA.
Scale
300 Ft. to the Inch
STREET
HALF STREET
R.R. Grounds
175 Ft.
Feet. Right of Way
50 Ft.
R.R.
R.R. Co.
R.O. & Hall
Winchendon Cem.
S.H.
NEWERA
Scale 300 Ft. to Inch
NORTH ST.
JACKSON ST.
LA FAYETTE ST.
WASHINGTON
MAIN
CENTER
Warren went to school #5
Called 5 points
And at Hague School #3
1884 - 85
Ohio Fitch
Highway
Ferry
Joseph Rupert
Joseph Suyrock
Peter Simons
F. Clova
Sarah Farr
Wm. Whetsel
Wm. T. Thrush
Robert Work
Hartruder
Lewis Holbrook
Sanford S. Holbrook
Lyman Russell
Drurill
Henry Britcher
Solomon Simon
Almira Crowlam
Simon P. Stroup
Ann Shryock
Wm. Shryock
Amos Fitch
Rosina West
Betty
Rob't Work
Geo. West
Cem.
Meth. Epis. Ch.
School No 6
School No 4
Cemetery
Wm. Gorrell
P. Simon
Black Ct.
Solomon Simon Jr.
Lyman Holbrook
Johnathan Simon
Martin Biliger
H.L. Holbrook
Samuel Weller
Sam'l Hawver
Gideon Houser
D.L. House
Sam'l Lung
John Buerstner Hrs.
Wm. Wiesel
John Ehrd
H.L. Houser
Charles Sams
F.S. Hanson
Moses Simon
Josep. H. Simon
Jos. Weller
Lucinda Dudley
Martin Miller
John Lung
Priscilla Barclay
North Lung
R. Showers
Wm. H. Holman
James Reynolds
Paul L. Lung
David Lung
Thrush Simon
John Hague
David Stone
Joseph Purrish
J.C. Lyon
Joseph
Sa
Geo. Insley
Abraham Reaver
R. Heitz
Little
Heitz
Abner
J.M. Dill
F. Vandercook
Dein
Newera
Mary F. Schoaff
Wm. Work
Wm. I. Work
Philip Noel
John H.
S.M. H.
Ann
Fitch
Rosina West
Betty
Geo.
Rob't Work
Geo. West
Wm. Whetsel
Joseph Peppel
John Buerstner Hrs.
Wm. Gorrell
P. Simon
Black Ct.
Solomon Simon Jr.
Lyman Holbrook
Johnathan Simon
Martin Biliger
H.L. Holbrook
Samuel Weller
Sam'l Hawver
Gideon Houser
D.L. House
Sam'l Lung
John Ehrd
H.L. Houser
Charles Sams
F.S. Hanson
Moses Simon
Josep. H. Simon
Jos. Weller

Highway 27 / Coldwater Rd 1880-85 WARREN Fitch Plan 1793

Gump Rd.

MAP OF PERRY TOWNSHIP

Cemetery - Nathaniel / Mathias

Mathias Fitch - Fitch Mill

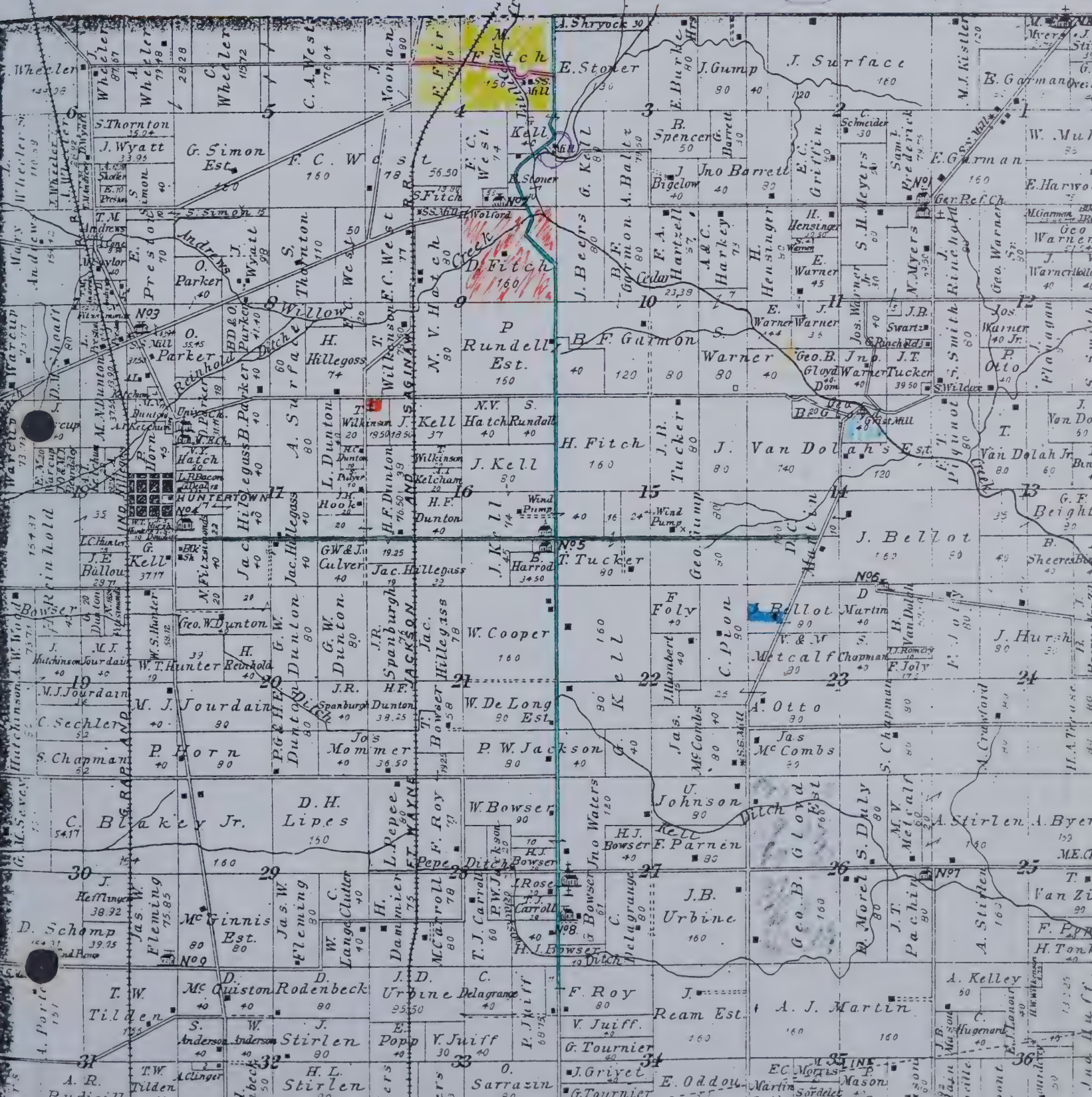
OLD Homestead

Vandolah Mill

T 32 N. R 12 E

Stoner (Mill)

Gloyds


M. Fitch
E. Stoner
J. Gump
J. Surface
G. Simon Est.
F. C. West
J. Jno Barrett
B. Spencer
E. Garman
P. Rundell Est.
B. F. Garmon
Warner
H. Fitch
J. Van Dolahs Est.
J. Bellot
HUNTERTOWN
W. Cooper
D. H. Lipes
C. Blakey Jr.
P. Horn
M. J. Jourdain
W. Bowser
J. B. Urbine
T. W. Tilden
McGinnis Est.
Jas. W. Fleming
D. Rodenbeck
W. De Long Est.
P. W. Jackson
A. Otto
Jas McCombs
U. Johnson
A. Stirlen
A. Byer
F. Roy
V. Juiff
Ream Est.
A. J. Martin
E. Oddou
Martin Mason
Sordelet
Jno Waters
Ditch
Creek
Willow
Reinhold Ditch
Andrews
Parker
Hillegoss
Dunton
Kell
Hatch
Rundall
Tucker
Wilkinson
Kelcham
Culver
Harrod
Folly
Lambert
Metcalf
Chapman
Martin
Bowser
Fitzsimmons
Hutchinson
Sourdain
Reinhold
Hunter
Spanburgh
Jackson
Pepee
Roy
Bowser
Carroll
Delagrange
Urbine
Rodenbeck
Anderson
Stirlen
Juiff
Tournier
Griyet
Sarrazin
Morris
Mason
Sordelet
Martin
Hugenard
Kelley
Tilden
Clinger
Fleming
McGinnis
Champ
Schamp
Chapman
Sechler
Hessinger
Lange
Clutter
Damnier
Carroll
Rose
Bowser
Ditch
Creek
Wilkinson
Dunton
Hillegoss
Parker
Andrews
Willow
Reinhold Ditch
Pepee
Roy
Bowser
Jackson
Spanburgh

Gump Rd.

MAP OF PERRY TOWNSHIP

Cemetary - Nathaniel / Mathias

Mathias Fitch - Fitch Mill

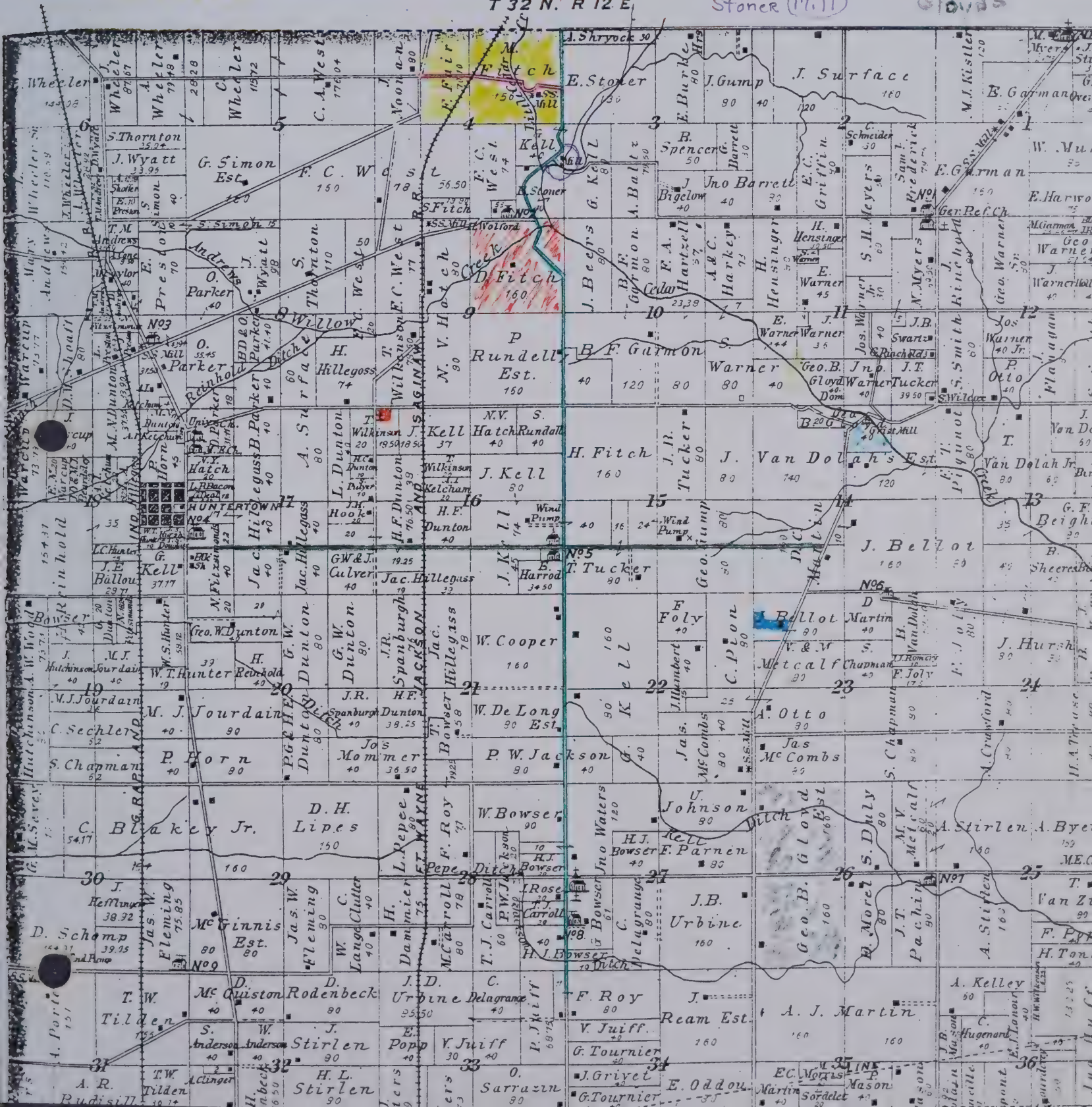
OLD Homestead

Vandolah Mill

T 32 N. R 12 E.

Stoner (Mill)

Glovds



Otis Fitts went to school
at Fitts School District #2
on Shuff Road across from
Nathaniel property.



Ida and Mel Mason
This photo is meant to supplement the Fitch Lineage Book, which did not have their photo.

Ida Fitch Mason's Remarks at the 1925 Reunion

Eighty-five years ago the fourth of last month (June 4, 1840), Nathaniel and Sarah Elizabeth DeLong were married and began in the forest of Perry Township to hew out a home for themselves and bear a family of fifteen children. There are now fifty-three families scattered all over the U.S. with 189 members from this branch.

To raise a family of 15 children this day and age; a man would need to be a multi-millionaire. Personally, I'm glad it was my lot to be born and reared in the woods on the banks of little Willow Creek. I think, I would have missed half of the joys of childhood. When I came into this home I made an even dozen: six boys and six girls.

I remember my older brothers and sisters as being young men and young women. And I received most of my care from them. I think it well for the present generation to be told of the hardships of our elders. At least, it thrills me with pride to think of our parents undertaking to rear a family with no more to do with than ours had. We were not raised on lolly-pops and all-day suckers.

First and always, they agreed their children should have an education, a thing they were both deprived of to a large extent. We were never permitted to stay out of school to help on the farm.

Our Mother and Father were manufacturers. Everything that was needed that could not be bought was made by one of them.

Our mother was our best doctor and nurse, our preacher and teacher. She was our lawyer who laid down the code of justice. Mother was police woman that kept order. And also, the Judge that hands out the punishment as all families at times need.

I have given a little of our family history.

I wish to speak of our oldest sister, Mary Jane Fitch Beers (Jennie), wife of Levi Beers.

It is with sadness we meet the passing of our family circle. Si was the life of our reunions, and we do miss him.

Our sister Jennie had a vision for each of the younger members of the family. She helped our parents carry out their educational plan. Three of us were taken to Wabash in her home and entered high school when she and Professor Beers were teaching there.

I have many personal reasons to thank her for principles she taught me when a child.

We had a circle letter call the Six Fitch Sisters which was carried on for years until we numbered five.

On March 17th of this year our sister was called to her Heavenly home from the home of her daughter in Neenah, Wisconsin. I'm sure she will meet her pilot face - to-face. We are proud and glad for the five children that brother and sister Beers have left to better the world.

Nathaniel Jr. and Sarah Delong Fitch

Reprinted from "Jennie's Family"

(The following details of Fitch family life were compiled from many sources. Notes and materials gathered by Alice Beers Kephart, Kenneth Beers and Margarita Beers Ozanne were especially helpful. The intent is to supplement, not repeat, the material in "Fitch Family History with Lineage Lines of Nathaniel and Sarah Delong Fitch.")

Nathaniel was "bound out" for six years to learn the blacksmith's and gunsmith's trades to a party in Easton, Pennsylvania by his father. (Easton was about 100 miles from his home.) He came home in about six months with the knowledge of the trades and is said to have run away from his apprenticeship. He opened a shop on the old homestead in partnership with his brother Giles. After Giles learned the trade, Nat, as Nathaniel was called, said that there wasn't enough work for the two, so he sold out to Giles.

Apparently, Nathaniel wanted his father to give him a spring for making scythes. His father refused, and Nathaniel left home and went west with $.15 in his pocket, a rifle, a bag of salt, a hatchet and whatever else he had tied in a bandana handkerchief. He wasn't heard from for 14 years. Nathaniel wore a black handkerchief around his neck for years.

In Wabash, Indiana, Nathaniel set up his blacksmith shop and made locks, guns, traps, hatchets, plowshares, axes and other needed hardware. He was an expert at tempering steel, and customers would come from Michigan and all around. He made all the ironwork for the canal locks between Wabash and Fort Wayne (ultimately the canal ran to Toledo and the Great Lakes), moving his shop along with the advance of the canal.

When Nathaniel would come home to visit during this canal blacksmithing, if the creek was running full, he would put his money belt under a big rock and swim across. Some time later if he ran out of money, he would go and get his money belt.

A permanent camp of Indians was nearby when he first set up his shop. They could be seen through the woods and would come begging Nathaniel to mend their traps and guns. On one occasion he was obliged to ask an Indian, who had a gun to mend, to wait, whereupon the Indian came at Nathaniel with a knife. Nathaniel was by the forge, working on a sharp shovel, and was ready to cut the Indian's head off. Another Indian, the chief named Chopine (Little Turtle) took the first Indian away, saying, "bad Indian," which referred to his drunken state.

A year or two after coming to Indiana, Nathaniel went back to Pennsylvania for a girl. She refused to come west. "Too wild." Two of his brothers, John and Seymour ("pretty boys") did come out but got wet, took cold and died. John died 1841 Seymour lived until 1855

Sarah Fitch was a DeLong, born near Dayton, Miami County, Ohio. Sometime thereafter she lived in Pennsylvania. Her father was from Germany and was unkind to her. He was educated but did not speak English. Her mother was a Statler. Sarah was never educated due to the German attitude toward girls and could neither read nor write. Later in her life she learned to read and to write a little, but there were simply no opportunities for formal schooling.

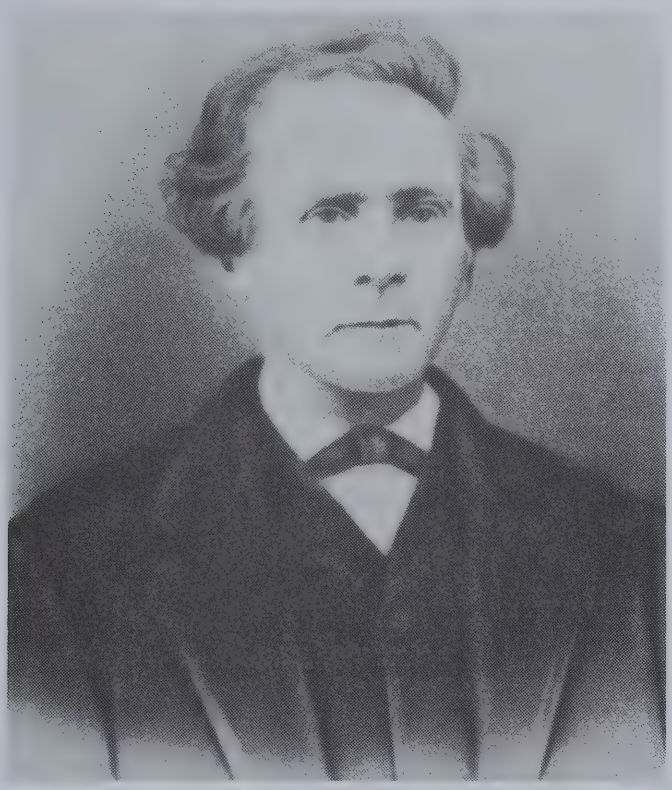
Sarah spent 45 minutes every day for three months making a rude dam across a large stream. One day a raft of a thousand logs came down the stream and destroyed the dam. She came back through the woods shouting.

A neighbor family (Cumstock) was planning to go west by wagon. Sarah ran away from home at daybreak and left with the Cumstocks. She went with them to her sister's, Mrs. Christina Fair, in Dekalb County. Sarah worked for Christina, then went to Auburn where she worked in a tavern. Next she went to the Vandolers. She cooked for eight men, cared for their mother and baby, made a garden, carried water up a hill and washed clothes for $.50 a week.

Nathaniel had a log hut near the Fairs' home. His oxen strayed away, and he went to the Fairs' to hunt them. There he first saw Sarah. Soon thereafter, he went to the Fairs' door, stated that he was looking for a wife and inquired if there were any single women there. Christina replied that her sister wasn't married and called her to the door. Sarah looked Nathaniel over and said, "Well, I'll take him."

Nathaniel and Sarah were married in June 1840. She wore a changeable silk dress, which she remembered fondly. On the day after her wedding she walked to their 20 acres and picked a bucket of strawberries. She and Nathaniel began housekeeping in a log house on the edge of a hill near a spring near Huntertown, Indiana. They lived there until 1854 or 1855 when they moved to a larger frame house where Sarah Elizabeth was born. The log house was torn down in 1855.

Nathaniel was six feet tall in his stocking feet. His arms and legs were scarred where horses had jerked before the nails had been turned in shoeing. He wore homemade clothes but on one occasion went to Fort Wayne to buy a suit. The store owner fitted him and said, "That suit just fits you," whereupon Nathaniel bent over and split the coat. "What are you made of," the owner asked. Nathaniel then lifted a two bushel sack of wheat and put it in the wagon.



Nathaniel Fitch, Jr., age 64 (c. 1870)

Apparently Nathaniel was not one of the county's classiest dressers. One day he went to town in search of a new mill stone. The young man at the store didn't think much of his appearance and couldn't believe he could have any money to pay for it so he went back to check with his boss. He said, "There's a man out here who wants to buy a mill stone, but he doesn't look like he's got $10 to his name." The owner looked and seeing that it was Nathaniel said, "That is Nathaniel Fitch. Sell him four or five if you can. He is a big land owner north of here."

On another occasion, when the government opened up the land in Iowa, Nathaniel decided to go. He walked most of the way. The last day before he got to the town where the land office was, a man came along in a buggy and gave him a lift. When they got to town, the man invited Nathaniel to eat supper with him. Nathaniel turned him down. After eating, the man went to the land office, only to learn that the last of the land had been sold to Nathaniel Fitch. "He is that man standing across the street." The man remarked, "That is the man that rode to town with me. I thought he was a wanderer. I offered to buy his supper. He didn't look like he had a dime."

On that trip to Iowa he wore a vest that Sarah had made, with gold coins sewed into the lining in many places. He never took it off during the entire trip, except when he needed money.

There were two forges. The children would gather to watch the sparks fly, and Nathaniel, wearing his leather apron, would drive them off for their safety. He would take the boys to the shop but never the girls.

Nathaniel was known as a prodigious walker, perhaps because he didn't like horses. He held a mortgage on some property some distance away. When he heard that the man was going to leave, he said, "I guess I'll go over there. Maybe I'll be gone over night." After breakfast he departed and arrived by nightfall, having walked all day.

On another occasion, Harvey and Amos started to Fort Wayne with two loads of wheat, leaving Nathaniel at home. When they arrived in Fort Wayne, Nathaniel was there talking with friends.

Nathaniel liked to challenge the boys to a race to town. He would start off on foot, and the boys would take horses, but he would be waiting in town when they arrived.

The Fitches were Democrats. Nathaniel felt that Negroes were better off with their masters, yet opposed slavery. When Perry was drafted into the Union Army during the Civil War, Nathaniel went to Kelloggsville and bought him off with greenbacks. When the boys were excited by the drums of war, he would say, "Take your hoe (or cradle) and get back to the field."

Nathaniel wrote into one of his books the following inscription: "Don't steal this for fear of life, For don't you see the butcher knife."

Nathaniel didn't like horses and never drove them. He never owned a buggy until Sarah received some money from Ohio. Then he bought a three seated spring wagon. But he liked cats and often played with one that he had at the mill. Sarah always had her own riding horse.

When men were building a new house, one dove off a rafter to prevent Amos from injuring the twins (Fitelia and Francelia) with a hatchet.

There was an original old log school house on Nathaniel's land, which Perry and the older Fitch children attended. A smooth topped table, flanked by a pair of long benches made of slabs with the flat side up ran the length of the building. Another table and benches were against the wall. The children would recite between the tables. It was a small building and smelled of the frying and cooking.

Perry Center Seminary was founded in 1856 by Nathaniel, Jacob Kell, George B. Gloyd and Mr. Hilegart to provide education for the community's children. There was no toilet or well. Nathaniel boarded the masons who built the foundation, free. The seminary was a frame building of which the German Mr. Kell said in broken English, "I wish you would break up. Then I'd do better."

There were two large rooms for classes on the first floor, and six or seven rooms on the second floor. The teacher lived at the seminary, and some boys stayed there during the week in the upstairs rooms. Others came by wagon or sled, gathering others along the way. Moll and Jane Fair, Mary Fleming, Ann Ross and two Vandoler girls would spin and do other work for Sarah in return for board.

There was an oral entrance exam, where the teacher asked the questions, and parents sat up front to watch when their own children were quizzed.

The teacher, Mr. Fleming, had "Eastern" ideas as to what should be taught and had the children studying Greek and Latin, among other subjects. Nathaniel's third child, Mary Jane, known as Jennie, took to this study like a duck to water and she prepared for college. During her time at the Academy she and the other girls made a Union flag, which has been displayed at Fitch reunions ever since.

Jennie attended and graduated from Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan, in 1870. Nathaniel wanted Jennie to come back home to teach after graduation. She did return the summer after graduation to teach in the white schoolhouse across the creek but then taught in Fort Wayne, in Utica, New York and in Wabash, where she married Levi Beers, a teacher. During that summer the parents paid by subscription for teaching their children.

Nathaniel was quite disappointed that Jennie left. Her sister, Sarah, their tenth child, says that Jennie was "the Lady of the family. It seems that such a large family could afford at least **one**. But there wasn't but one.

"The rest of us came up the hard way. Fitelia, Francelia and I were the Huskies, and you may know running as many farms as Father did with a large family and always hired hands, there was plenty to do. We did not live out of tin cans in those days as we do now.



The flag made by Jennie Fitch and her sisters at the start of the Civil War. It was shown at each Fitch Reunion.

During the cholera plague that swept the community one year, Sarah and Nathaniel went nightly to help the sick and dying. They changed clothes down by the creek. She went to nurse, and he went to make coffins. In the morning they would bathe in the cold creek and put on the clothing they had left there before returning to their families.

Sarah was also an active midwife, who assisted in many births in the county.

Sarah made cheese and barrels of pickles for sale (soaking and stemming the pickles was extra). In the kitchen loft, an attic over the porch, dried apples, pumpkins and grapes hung in cotton sacks from the rafters.

Sarah cooked for years before a fireplace and grated corn to make meal before the mill was built. Nathaniel later got her a stove with 3 lids and a big oven on top. She baked salt-rising bread in a round Dutch oven or later in the stove.

Their ninth child, Harvey, remembers, "We didn't have a variety of food, but had plenty of it ... meat, potatoes, and bread. If we had anything sweet, it was usually maple syrup or sorghum molasses." There were deer, wild turkeys and peacocks in the woods. If successful at hunting, the boys would bring home squirrels.

The loom upon which their woolens were woven was in the room next to the kitchen. Shortly after its installation, there was consternation in the kitchen as breads and cakes would fall during baking. It was discovered that the thump of the loom was the cause.

There were always 5 or 6 hired hands eating along with the family, making meals for 20 a common occurrence. One winter 20 students ate there and went to the seminary. The hired hands ate first, then the children, who sat on the stairs and waited their turn at the table.

The Fitches had a cane mill to produce sorghum molasses (from millet), of which there were up to five barrels stored in the cellar at any one time. One pushed the cane in, and one prodded the horse. The molasses came out green and had to be boiled and skimmed out of doors under shelter.

To wash clothes, Sarah went down a steep hill to the creek, beside which she had a big iron kettle. She would dip water from the creek and boil the clothes, using soft soap. After rinsing in another tub, the clothes were hung near the creek if there were no cattle loose. Some of the better clothing was taken up the hill and hung by the house.

Ida was in Wabash when Kenneth Fitch Beers was born (1876). A stovepipe above the nurse who was holding Kenneth fell. Ida leaped up and caught it before it hit him.

When the men at Amos' were out of meat, Nathaniel would take his gun into the woods and shoot and dress a deer and, once in awhile, a bear. Then Sarah and the boys would hitch up the team of oxen, go through the woods and pick up the deer.

Ida would go off to the woods to read. When a horse needed to be hitched, she'd be called.



Sarah Delong Fitch, age 52. (c. 1870)

The children would get up early and chase down to the plum thicket where there were five wild plum trees. They would pick up those on the ground before the hogs got them. There were also wild grapes and gooseberries, which were put in a coarse sack and rubbed with mittened hands to get the prickers off.

For sweets there was taffy, which the children would pull, and popcorn with molasses on it. Sweet corn was parched in a skillet with butter on it.

Nathaniel hated to see girls with petticoats showing. If there was a hole in a dress, he would



Jennie Fitch's college graduation dress, worn by Lucille Ozanne in 1930 in front of the Ozanne home in Neenah, Wisconsin.

"Jennie had it plenty hard after her family came, and she had to learn what we did at home. I'm not blaming her. It was Father that spoiled her."

During the early years of the Civil War, sometimes 150 students attended the seminary. When military drums were heard, Mr. Fleming would dismiss the class and all would go out to watch 10 or 12 wagons of soldiers go by. The seminary closed when its teacher and many students enlisted in the Union Army. The deed wasn't recorded, and when the building ran down, Mr. Kell tore it down and built a barn.

A non-graded district school provided education to the younger Fitches. Fitelia and Francelia left school at 10 years. To reach the school, the children crossed Cedar Creek on a fallen tree trunk. When the creek flooded, Nathaniel would take his and neighbor children across in a canoe, cautioning them not to put their hands out.

In the morning Nathaniel would glance at the clock and say, "school time." Then he would stand in the door and see that the children got off to school. The children remember cold mornings, just daylight. When the children came home from school, mush, which had cooked for several hours, was on. Later, when Nathaniel was sick and didn't go out, he would stir it. There would be pitchers of milk and maybe doughnuts and apple pie.

On summer days the girls would go barefoot to school and carry old dresses that they would hide in the willows by the creek. At noon they would change into their old dresses and go swimming. Jennie would come and throw stones just for fun, to make them think it was the boys.

On the last day of school there was always an exhibition. Ida was to speak "Over the Hill to the Poorhouse," which had just come out in Will Carleton's book. Ida would get mad at Jennie about something, get stubborn and not do anything. After she went to bed, Jennie would go up and coax her and teach her "Over the Hill." On the last day Ida spoke it, wearing a long black dress, bent over with a cane. Mrs. Stover, the preacher and Miller's wife, cried. Everyone cried.

Tables would be carried out under the big oaks for lunch and food put on the table. The children ate first, waited on by their mothers. On another big oak tree up a little ways, Mr. Stone would bring a big rope from the mill and put up a swing. Mrs. Noonan would come and bring a pillow case to put anything left over to take home.

Behind an early portrait of Jennie (about age 18) was a lock of her hair (long, golden and tied with a red silk thread) and a poem in her handwriting: "Jennie Fitch is my name, And single is my station. And happy may the gentlemen be, When he makes the alteration."

Ida always had a strip of bed ticking sewed in her skirt bands because she played so rough and came home with her clothes torn. Skirts were very full with a couple of petticoats. She was very rowdy as a girl, followed by Allen, who was impetuous and impulsive. It became a family habit to train her, and this made her more stormy.

Emma would sit in a little rocker, rocking and wailing. She was always sickly as a child.

The children never had any typhoid, just children's diseases. No broken bones, except John, who went into the barn where the horses were loose and was kicked.

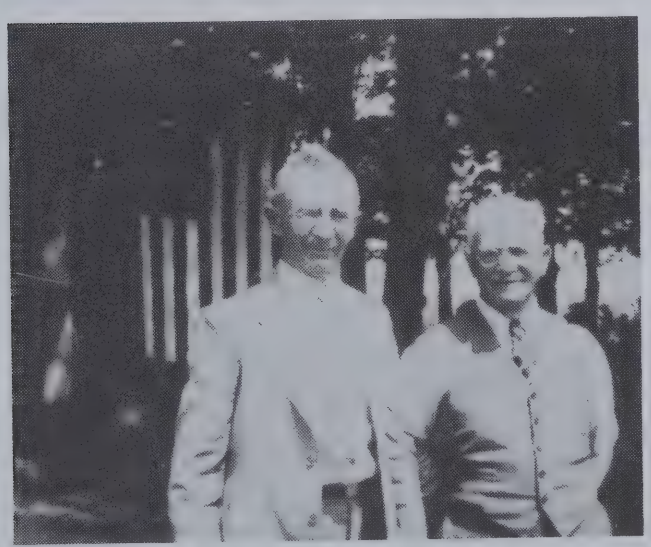
Nancy, Sarah's fifth child, took summer complaint (cholera infantum) and died. Sarah felt that "If I hadn't given up there, I'd have saved Nancy."

say, "Tut, tut, tut. My grandmother never went that way." If the children were cutting up at the table, he just raised his finger at them or rapped on the table. The children subsided at once. He never raised his voice to them.

If a group of children were tee-heeing in the corner at the steps, without a word Nathaniel would take one by the hand and give a gentle shove with his foot to one corner, another to another corner, etc. to break up the party.

Sarah was also a no-nonsense grandmother. One of her grandchildren would beat his head on the floor and watch his mother for a reaction. When he visited Sarah, he got water in the face for his behavior.

While Sarah was critical with her family, she had a mischievous side, too. One time she invited two granddaughters to go shopping with her in Fort Wayne. They had to walk from the farm to the railroad track, where the train would stop for them. On their way walking home. Sarah said, "Let's rest awhile." Before starting on, she took her drawers off, tied knots in each leg, put their packages in the legs and then put it over her shoulder. She then said, "Let's hear what the girls have to say about this!"



Dr. David Fitch and Harvey Fitch, brothers of Jennie. 1937. (L to R)

Bruno, a Newfoundland and one of the family dogs, followed Dave to Fort Wayne, where Dave attended school. Ida saw Bruno looking for Dave on campus. Bruno would wait for Dave on the hill every Friday. Bruno would also steal taffy from the girls and on one occasion lapped up apple butter that Sarah had put outdoors to cool.

Bruno would go with Dave when he went hunting squirrels, but Bruno's preference was hunting woodchucks, where he would go a block on his belly to head off a woodchuck from his hole. He apparently hated men with packs, and, when a peddler came to the house. Bruno's hackles were up even before he saw the peddler.

Boots were made periodically by a cobbler who would stand each person against a wall, mark the length of his foot on the floor and then measure the distance with a stick. Shoes were carried coming and going to Sunday school. Nathaniel said that if you got them wet, you had to wear them until they were dry or you couldn't get them on again.

Much of their clothing was woolen, made from their own sheep. "Ida Fitch's got the itch, and all the children know it. If she don't oint at every joint." Nathaniel would carry his white shirt when going somewhere "dressed up." Fitelia made his shirts with collars attached and turned down. No ties.

Before Sarah had a loom, there were no night clothes. The girls took off their drawers and slept in chemises ... low necks, short sleeves. Cold! Later Hannah Garrison took 2 or 3 colors of yarn and wove night clothes. The boys' plaid shirt material was made of 4 threads of blue and 4 threads of white. Girl's panties were also made, although later some were made of store-bought material.

When Perry, their first child, married Sarah Gloyd in 1864, there was a big two day wedding, starting on Sunday. The children remember how "unfair" it was. They had to be at school on Monday, across the creek, where they could watch the Fitches and Gloyds celebrating in Nathaniel's yard. Fitch children went to school all year.

Allen, their eleventh child, was born in February, 1857, but wasn't named until October, 1858, when Alice was born. Nathaniel finally said, "We'll call him Allen and the girl Alice."

When Sarah knew that Dave (their 15th child) was coming, she went outdoors, took hold of the clothesline and cried bitterly, "Can I go through that again?" She was 47 when Dave was born, 23 years after Perry's birth. Her first grandchild was born just 3 months after Dave's birth.

Her sister, Henrietta Delong Young, who was living in Ohio, sent a box of baby clothes, including a little green jacket with buttons. Dave was

named after her husband.

Sheep were raised that produced a fine, mixed wool. Nathaniel washed the sheep in the creek, and the children would watch. In two years during the Civil War five wagons of wool were produced and sold to the government for script. At one time mutton was on the dinner table. Nathaniel asked, "Did you kill one of my sheep?" Upon learning that Sarah had, he got up and left the table.

Nathaniel owned and operated a wool-carding business, as well as a saw mill. The carding mill was powered by a 12 foot diameter overshot water wheel in the basement. The two carding cylinders were 6 feet tall and 3 feet wide, made of leather with little wires put in every 3 inches. As the cylinders revolved near a table, they would pick up wool and make rolls. Ida would pick rolls out of the trough, catching it by the ends and giving it a little twist. It was then ready for spinning.

Shortly after the carding mill was built by Harry Fair in 1840, Nathaniel bought it. The building was two stories in height and 40 x 20 feet in size. Its dam was about 65 feet in length and 4 feet high on Little Cedar Creek, situated about a mile upstream from the mill. After trouble developed with the water supply, the mill was moved downstream, and the mill race was lengthened. The mill was abandoned about 1869 or 1870.

The saw mill was powered by a 6 foot water turbine. It was initially an up and down saw that cut only as it went up. Later it was replaced with a circular saw. Logs (black walnut, oak, basswood, poplar) up to 5 feet in diameter were delivered to the mill, cut into 12 foot lengths and slabbed. Some workers hewed framing timbers 60 to 75 feet long by hand.

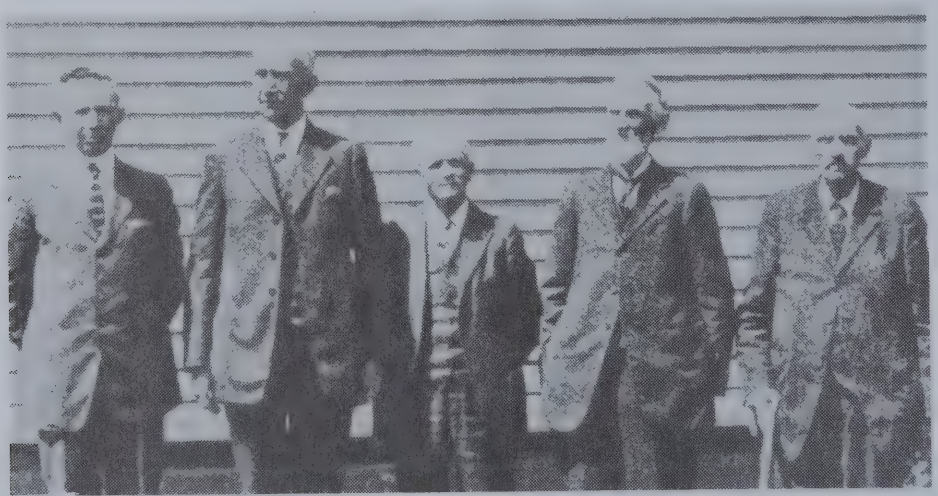
The saw mill was built in 1840 and quit business in 1908, having been operated by Nathaniel's second child, Mathias, after Nathaniel. The mill was a one-story building, 60 x 20 feet. Mathias added a feed-grinder to the operation.

Nathaniel's death may have been hastened as a result of injuries received at Sci's farm. He was using cant hook on a log when the cant hook slipped. Logs came rolling down. Nathaniel thought that one was spent and put out his foot. He was struck, whirled around and thrown, face down, onto the ground. The logs passed over him, injuring his chest. His head had gone into a depression in the ground, or he might have been killed.

Fie said to Sarah, "Mother, something is wrong." They ran to see Sci coming with Nathaniel, walking slowly. "A log rolled over him." The next winter was severe, and he took pneumonia. The nearest doctor was Huntertown and "not much at that." Home remedies failed and Nathaniel died New Year's morning in 1877. Jennie came with Kenneth Beers, just 6 months old. It was very cold. Nathaniel was taken to the cemetery on a sled.

When he died, Nathaniel owned 2220 acres of land. It was said that he had two hobbies: Wheat and land. He was remembered as one who "never did a mean trick" in business and who raised a fine family.

According to Parker Fitch, grandson of Nathaniel, Sarah "just wore out" at 90 years old. She had a few sick spells, but every time the doctor arrived, she was OK. It was possible they were mild heart attacks. She was sick and in bed only two weeks before she died. Until then she was up and able to do her work.



(L to R, top to bottom)
Five of Jennie's brothers: David, Allen, Harvey, Amos and Charlie Fitch.

Additional Stories of the Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch Family

Alice Beers Kephart, Jennie Fitch's youngest daughter, was a graduate of Northwestern University and a school teacher in Colorado. She attended a number of Reunions and at the 1933 Reunion wrote down the reminiscences of her surviving aunts and uncles.

From her notes came much of the story of Nathaniel and Sarah that was published in "Jennie's Family" (see preceding pages).

Alice recorded 64 pages of early Fitch family history that would probably have been lost, except for her effort. We owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude. Thanks also go to Alice's sister, Margie Beers Ozanne, and to Lucille Ozanne Cassell for safeguarding these notes since Alice's death in 1965.

Carolyn Kell Davis and Mary Louise Fitch (Sr. M. Alma Louise) read a prepublication draft of these stories and added their recollections. Carolyn's comments are noted in [ ]; while Mary Louise's are noted in { }.

Nathaniel and Sarah began housekeeping in a log cabin on what became Ame's place, on the edge of a hill, near a spring and a wild cherry tree. In 1933 there was a walnut tree right where the cabin used to stand. [My brother said the spring is no longer there. It provided an enormous flow of water. Something caused it to cave in.]

There were peach trees at Nathaniel's, which be bought from a travelling nurseryman for $1.00 a dozen. Nathaniel would go to the orchard, look up at the trees and pick out a fine peach. He would peel it and, if a child appeared, would offer a bite impaled on his knife.

In addition to peaches, their orchard had early red apples, sweet apples, old fashioned rambo (insect - free) and bell flower (fall) apples. The outside row of trees produced a good apple but not a good keeper. [The names of the apples are familiar as we had the same kind on our farm bearing fruit in the 1920's.]

Ame was an apple eater. He would eat about six apples a day: one at recess, 3 or 4 at noon, another at recess. He would stuff his pockets with apples. "Ame, give me an apple." "No, I've only got six."

Fi and Frank (the twins) as babies travelled in a horse basket made by an old itinerate basket maker from willows in the creek. Sarah would ride sidesaddle with the basket in front, knitting while the horse walked. [My mother told me that Sarah rode sidesaddle.]

Allen had ague and was carried on a pillow as a baby. [Ague was a malarial-type illness with high fever and chills. Ague weed, also known an boneset, was used to medicate.]

For medicines there was jimpson weed, which was pounded and mixed with lard as a salve. There was sulphur and molasses, as well as boneset weed that grew in marshy places and was used in tea for ague.

"Shippey Place" was a marshy, low spot in one field where wild cranberries grew. [The name of a neighbor family who no longer lives in the area.] Sarah and Perry once took a load of cranberries to town, sold them and bought a set of little wooded chains.

Harve and Ida would take a little copper kettle and walk two and a half miles to Huntertown and exchange for brown sugar.

The family hogs lived on acorns. Old Pink, who belonged to Emma, had only two teats. When dressed pigs were loaded on a wagon in the winter, they just rattled around (frozen).

If a pig needed butchering, Sarah and Perry would do it. You could tell when families butchered for their hair was all greased. During the winters, they would kill 3 or 4 steers for meat.



Sarah DeLong Fitch with her cow, probably at the Fitch Homestead. Date unknown.

Sometimes, Sade would take the children to the woods to eat picnic dinner, while the men ate at the table at home.

"Younguns" dug slab wood out of the lumber mill waste and split them for kindling.

Al and Charles gave Sci two greyhounds as a gift. When they would fight, the men would throw them into the mill race to separate them. Dave's dog had a double nose. The boys went to the river after corn planting, and the dogs got into the sheep and were shot.

Ame would work at the carding mill, taking fleece off to a corner on a sheet and throwing grease on it. Then he would work it with a pole before using picker to carry it to the carding cylinder. His recollection: "Old

stinking grease."

The wool from their sheep was put on hinged boards that had deep creases in one board with strings in the creases. The hinged side was brought up, the strings tied and the wool was packed for shipment. During the Civil War, wool was selling at $1.00 a pound, which was quite a sum in those days.

Fi was married in 1875, the year of Nathaniel's final accident. She would brush his hair and "do for him". She asked him if he cared if she married that year. He said, "No, I don't mind." On Fi's October wedding night, some of the younger children hid peaches in her bed.

Nathaniel died on January 1, 1877. Gerome and John Rundle {neighbors who lived to the south of Nathaniel. Three Rundles went to school at the District School on the Shoaff.} went to Auburn for his casket.

The bricks in Ame's house were handmade and laid by a 92-year old mason for $112. The house was built in 1878.



Amos Fitch's brick farmhouse, built in 1878.

Amos

Ame plowed every day for two months to plant their first wheat crop. They harvested 50-60 bushels an acre and sold it for $2.00 a bushel. Children gathered the sheaves. One year during the Civil War they received $4.00 a bushel, which caused Nathaniel to sell too much of their crop. They had no wheat for bread at school. The children hated to carry cornbread to school, so they went home for dinner each day. When the new crop came in, the first load was taken to the mill so they had bread again.

It was almost impossible to get wheat to town in the spring due to the muddy roads. 20 bushels would make a load for a good team.

Back in Pennsylvania, Nathaniel's family used eel skins as wheat flails. "If not careful, you got hit in the head by a flail."

Ame once wanted a pair of shoes, so he took 4 or 5 bushels of wheat to town and sold them for $3.00 a bushel. Then he bought shoes. All without asking Nathaniel or Sarah.

In the Fall Nathaniel would buy a side of sole leather and some uppers from Spencer [I think Spencer refers to Nathaniel's brother from Pennsylvania who married a Sickler and came to Indiana. I'm not sure, but I think that he migrated farther west.] Old boots would freeze, so they were hard to get off.

Dances were held in Huntertown: Square dancing, waltzing and Marley (sic) march. The last dance was a fireman's dance. There were also necktie parties, where the girls made neckties, and the boys drank. {Parker (my father), Rolland and Burgess Fitch, and one other cousin whom I do not recall, arranged for dances on occasion. My father called many of the dances.}

Occasionally, there would be singing schools when Prof. Strant visited for two or three weeks, after which the girls would give a concert. People would come 8 or 10 couples in each wagon or sled.

There were skating parties at a spot called "the Prairie". The crowd came from school.

Little Willow Creek was grand, clean, green and mossy. Later it was called "Lovers' Lane".

Along in the fall, the family would go to protracted meetings. One time there was a protestant meeting at Union, but all the children had to go to school at the Seminary. Jennie went to the meeting and stayed overnight at the Rundles. She stayed for three nights, until Nathaniel said, "Ame, go to the Rundles for Jane." She came. (Jennie's actual name was Mary Jane.)

Once Fish West's horses were discovered grazing on some of Nathaniel's land. Fish always had a gang around him and professed ignorance. Nathaniel went out after dark and watched. Again, the next morning the horses were in Nathaniel's pasture. Fish asked, "How did my horses get in there?" "Barney," Nathaniel said to one of Fish's men, "I stood within 15 feet of you when you turned your horses in last night."

Nathaniel and a neighbor were talking about wood chains one day. Nathaniel said, "Better be careful, or you'll be wearing one of iron some day." The neighbor laughed, "They'll never catch me. See that horse over there. He'll disappear some night." And he did. The neighbor stole and hid horses, then ran them up to Michigan. [Horse stealing was rampant at that time. Nathaniel and my other grandfather, Jacob Kell, helped to organize a vigilante group (a sort of militia of local farmers) to stop the criminals, as there was no sheriff in the county. There is still some resentment about this activity among families living in the area.] (For this reason, the family historian has deleted the name of the neighbor who was allegedly stealing horses.)

Cloth for blue jeans and jackets was purchased by the bolt, as was material for sheets, pillow cases and

(Right) This is a picture of the Perry Fitch family of Butler Township, DeKalb County, just north of the Allen-DeKalb County line. The seven sons were; Bert, Kels, Bill, George, Oliver, Frank and Claude. The daughter is Mrs. Pearl Gladbach, widow of Godfrey Gladbach, former assistant post master in Fort Wayne. Mrs. Gladbach resides at 1612 Schilling Street, Fort Wayne. The old family house still stands. This photo was provided by Mrs. Cecil E. Fitch, R.R. 2, Box 24, Waterloo.





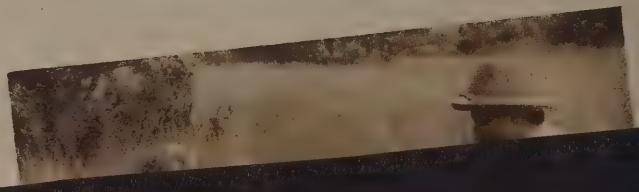
Grass Roots Success

THEY SAID it couldn't be done, but then the "miracle of the grass roots" turned 130 million acres of arid wasteland in West Pakistan into a virtual sea of grass for cattle grazing. It was accomplished by means of a simple, inexpensive technique called "waterspreading."

At first, the farmers in the parched region doubted that their bone-dry land could ever become rich green pastureland for their hungry, scrawny cattle. Then they saw the dramatic results of water-spreading in an experiment, which was conducted on a 3,000-acre area of the Rakn Miran section of the Dera Ismali Khan



Here, a village official (right) and a range management officer examine the parched soil in the testing area.



IT'S AN OLD STORY—

How A 'Silent Majority' Dealt With Crime Wave

A dramatic review of chartered authority in northern Indiana will be given by John Martin Smith, Auburn attorney, at the spring dinner meeting of the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society Saturday evening, April 11 at the Fort Wayne Woman's Club.

For members of the Society and their guests, the program will open at 6:30 p.m. and the reservations deadline will be noon of April 9.

The speaker's subject will be "Blacklegs, Regulators and the Hanging of Gregory McDougle." A similar presentation at the recent Northern Indiana Historical Conference in Wabash gained wide attention because of certain parallels of public peril existing in the 1850's and today.

The hunting down and arrest of McDougle and his trial and execution by civilian authority near Diamond Lake in Noble County, Jan. 26, 1858 accomplished a fracture of lawlessness that had terrorized the northern tier of Indiana counties for years.

Legal organization of citizenry to restore order and abolish the "law of the street" was the response of a silent majority nettled beyond endurance by early organized crime.

Such pressure was brought upon the constituted authority of that day that the Indiana Legislature in 1856 legalized by charter civilian organizations known as "regulators" and "vigilantes" to make arrests, conduct trials and even impose punishment.

Attorney Smith startles his audiences with the disclosure that this old chartered authority law was not removed from the Hoosier statute books until 1934.

Regulators Faded As Need Lessened

Though incompatible with the accepted processes of today, history significantly reveals that the Regulators and Vigilantes dissipated as the need for public intervention lessened.

tered authority proudly known as the Kekionga Guards, the Perry Rangers, Lafayette Rangers, New Haven Vigilantes, Adams Township Rangers, the St. Joseph Detectives and the Springfield Detectives.

These civilian preservers of the public peace were still active in 1884, for in that year a disturbing incident occurred: the Adams County Regulators appeared en masse here and sought to storm the Allen County Jail for possession of a suspect in the murder of Amos Backensto of Berne.

The neighboring vigilantes were not successful and after a second trial the murder suspect was sentenced to life imprisonment.

It took organized crime only 10 years to create what history relates as an intolerable situation in the northern tier of Indiana counties. Criminals of that era did not have to fear a system of communications that now reports almost as it happens.

Chartered authority, which

Continued On Page 5E.

Prominent names appeared on their charters and as human nature dictates, there were a few among their number who secretly relished the grisly procedures that restoration of law and order seemed to demand.

It may have been McDougle's frozen corpse that was leaned against the wall of a Northeastern Indiana tavern while his executioners libated away the hardship and unpleasantness of their deep-winter task.

The last words of the condemned man were quoted as a tribute to the vigilante war against the "banditti" and they may have been the figment of some bygone press agent. For what McDougle really said as the noose chafed his neck likely made the hanging easier for the more tender-hearted Regulators.

Northern Indiana lakes and swamplands made ideal nests for roving gangs who organized down through the years under leadership such as McDougle's.

Their forte was horse thievery, supplemented by robbery and even murder. The hoodlums became known as "blacklegs" because of the trademark of grime they carried from the swamps. They intimidated traffic on the old Lima plank road (now State Highway 3) and deep in the woods near Huntertown maintained a huge stable out of which the stolen horses were shuttled.

By the early 1850's the situation in Northern Indiana became so ridiculous that people were afraid to move about after night. When law enforcement broke down as far as organized crime was concerned, a fired-up citizenry besieged the state legislature and the compromise was chartered authority. Each charter was restricted to not less than 10 men nor more than 100, and application was made simply to the county commissioners — organizations of citizens for their own protection was not made difficult or involved.

Age-Old Morass Still Plagues Us

Time has refined the blacklegs into genteel jacklegs who champion or direct criminal activity and with the swamplands long dried up the lawless have taken refuge in foolscap. But there remains a morass that has influenced the course of all history — a tangle of public apathy and permissiveness together with deep personal interests and even senility in places of trust.

Fort Wayne was on the fringe of the early jungle and the county supported at least seven organizations of char-

Curbing Crime An Old Story

Continued From Page 1E.

now has a horrifying connotation, finally restored security to northern Indiana and the people who were a part of it lost interest in being policemen and judges after the mission had been accomplished. And in forgetfulness, chartered civilian authority remained legal in the state until only a few years ago. Ironically it was still a tool while the bold John Dillinger pillaged the state.

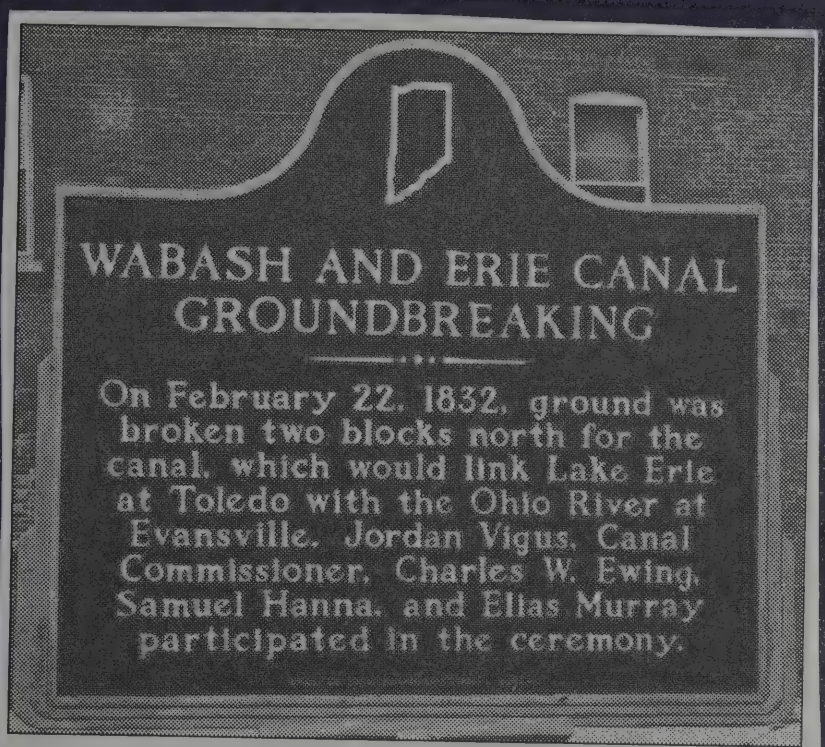
Reservations for the dinner meeting may be made with Dr. and Mrs. Richard Datzman (484-2001) or at the Historical Museum (743-5776).

The speaker is a graduate of the Indiana University School of Law and is active in the DeKalb County Bar Association and other legal organizations. He is one of the trustees of the Auburn Library and a past president of the DeKalb County Historical Society. Currently, he is president of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce, and a director of the DeKalb County Red Cross.

He has done extensive research of yesterday's resort-area criminal activity which made a Ho Chi Minh Trail out of the famous old Lima Road.

The crafty McDougle created such a loathsome image in Northeastern Indiana that he perhaps was finally executed for a crime he did not commit — a murder that seems to have rested upon circumstantial evidence.

But that is for John Martin Smith to relate. And there will be few in his audience who did not come with some disquietude or even qualms about being abroad this night of April 11, 1970.



This sign marking the groundbreaking for the Wabash and Erie Canal is in the 1700 block of West Main Street.

Beef Roll-Ups
$3.99 lb.

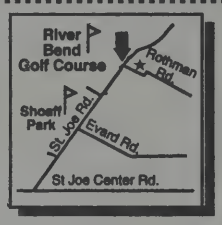
Summer Sausage...$5.99 ea.

ON NORTH ANTHONY-SOUTH OF COLISEUM BLVD.

XPRESS
UBE

Skilled Technicians

QUAKER STATE



INCLUDES

95

Reg. $22.95

E $4.00

s coupon

- Change oil (5 qts.)
- Replace oil filter
- Lubricate chassis
- Check/fill windshield washer
- Check/fill differential
- Check/fill power steering
- Check air filter
- Check/fill transmission fluid
- Check/fill brake fluid
- Check/fill battery fluid

COURTESY SERVICE

- Vacuum interior
- Wash Exterior windows
- Check/fill tire pressure

Special Diesel oil and filter type may result in extra charges.

EXPIRES 10/12/96

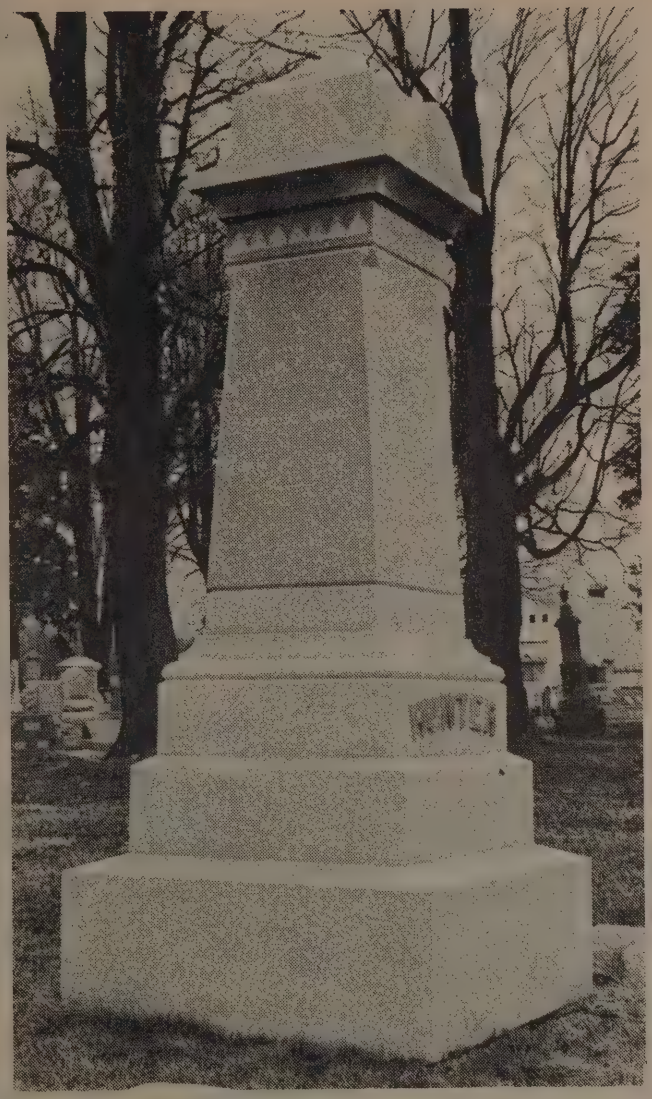
arly settlers

Horace F. Dunten selected the site. Being compelled by the death of an infant daughter of Amos Wood, they cast about for a suitable location where the soil was sandy and had good drainage. They chose a three-acre plot in the northwest quarter of Section No. 16. After this first burial it was used by the pioneers as a permanent burial ground. However, it was not until August 9, 1853, that the land was purchased from Jacob Bair, of Holmes County, O., for $50. This deed was made to Samuel Rhoades, Joseph Hillegass, Theron M. Andrews, Benjamin Parker and Elbridge G. Wheelock. The original deed now is held by Sidney Dunten.

Contains Tombs Of Early Pioneers

In this yard, cut in stone, one can find the names of the first pioneers of the vicinity including Benjamin Parker; Nathaniel Fitch, the first blacksmith; Ephriam Dunten, who opened the first store; Albert Wood; Mary Jane Wood Beardsley, the first white child born in the township; Rapin Andrews, the first unofficial meterologist of Allen County; Dr. Elbridge G. Wheelock, first community physician; William T. Hunter, after whom huntertown was named; James Vandolah, who built the first successful grist mill; George Simon and many more.

(Continued on p. 13)



Huntertown's namesake, William Hunter



Beef Roll-Ups
$3.99 lb.

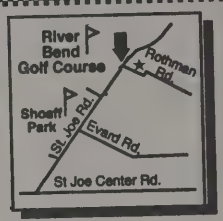
Summer Sausage...$5.99 ea.

ON NORTH ANTHONY-SOUTH OF COLISEUM BLVD.

XPRESS UBE

Skilled Technicians

QUAKER STATE



INCLUDES

95

Reg. $22.95

- Change oil (5 qts.)
- Replace oil filter
- Lubricate chassis
- Check/fill windshield washer
- Check/fill differential
- Check/fill power steering
- Check air filter
- Check/fill transmission fluid
- Check/fill brake fluid
- Check/fill battery fluid

COURTESY SERVICE

- Vacuum interior
- Wash Exterior windows
- Check/fill tire pressure

E $4.00 s coupon

Special Diesel oil and filter type may result in extra charges.

EXPIRES 10/12/96

151 year-old Perry Cemetery houses early settlers

Perry Township Cemetery on Cedar Canyon Road contains the graves of Huntertown's first residents according to a newspaper clipping sent to the NEWS by Bill Hand, current sexton of the cemetery.

The clipping is dated March 18, 1937 and gives a brief history of the cemetery which is 151 years old. It is reprinted below.

"Many of the pioneer residents of Perry Township, Allen County, are buried in the Perry Township Cemetery at Huntertown which is more than a century old. Included among those interred in the pioneer burial grounds are Mary Jane Wood Beardsley, the first white child born in the township, and William T. Hunter, for whom Huntertown was named.

Sidney M. Dunten, of Fort Wayne Rural Route No. 1, secretary of the cemetery association, prepared the following history of the cemetery:

In 1833 Thomas and Horace F. Dunten selected the site. Being compelled by the death of an infant daughter of Amos Wood, they cast about for a suitable location where the soil was sandy and had good drainage. They chose a three-acre plot in the northwest quarter of Section No. 16. After this first burial it was used by the pioneers as a permanent burial ground. However, it was not until August 9, 1853, that the land was purchased from Jacob Bair, of Holmes County, O., for $50. This deed was made to Samuel Rhoades, Joseph Hillegass, Theron M. Andrews, Benjamin Parker and Elbridge G. Wheelock. The original deed now is held by Sidney Dunten.

Contains Tombs Of Early Pioneers

In this yard, cut in stone, one can find the names of the first pioneers of the vicinity including Benjamin Parker; Nathaniel Fitch, the first blacksmith; Ephriam Dunten, who opened the first store; Albert Wood; Mary Jane Wood Beardsley, the first white child born in the township; Rapin Andrews, the first unofficial meterologist of Allen County; Dr. Elbridge G. Wheelock, first community physician; William T. Hunter, after whom huntertown was named; James Vandolah, who built the first successful grist mill; George Simon and many more.

(Continued on p. 13)



CHECK RUST
on New or Used Vehicles
complete rustproofing treatment only
$99.50
RUST CONTROL CENTER
420 Glenn Ave.
2-blocks South of Glenbrook
Just East of Clinton
484-0345
RUST CHECK



Huntertown's namesake, William Hunter



Sarah Bailey Wamsley's unique tombstone

CLASSIFIEDS
Index

Announcements 10
Notices 11
Personals 12
Coming Events 13
Lost & Found 14
Special Wishes 15
In Memoriam 16
Thank You 17
Services 20
Business 21
Home 22
Services Wanted 23
Employment 30
General 31
Babysitting 32
Positions Wanted . . . 33
For Sale 40
Antiques 41
Automotive 42
Furnishings 43
Appliances 44
Garage Sales 45
Misc. 46
Wanted 50
Wanted to Buy 51
Pets 60
Dogs, Cats & Pets . . . 61
Pet Services 62

Announcements 10

Notices 11

THESE PAGES—are read word for word by everyone who has this newspaper in their hands every week. Wouldn't you like to have your classified ad read? Call the NW Allen County NEWS at 693-2265 and place your ad by phone. NW-tf

FOR YOUR WEDDING—announcements and invitations stop in at the Tri-County Publishing office, 209 S. Main, Churubusco or call 693-2265. Choose the color and style that fits you. Tremendous variety from which to choose. NW-tf

SINGLES—All ages, meet sincere dates or mates. Write J.V.H. Dating Service, P.O. Box 9177, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46899. NW-tf

13

Coming Events

13

Coming Events

AEROBIC DANCE/EXERCISE 7 p.m., $18, exercise/stretch 8:15 p.m. $15, both $25. April 9 - May 16. Mondays and Wednesdays. North Christian Church 489-2143. NW-15

Announcements 10

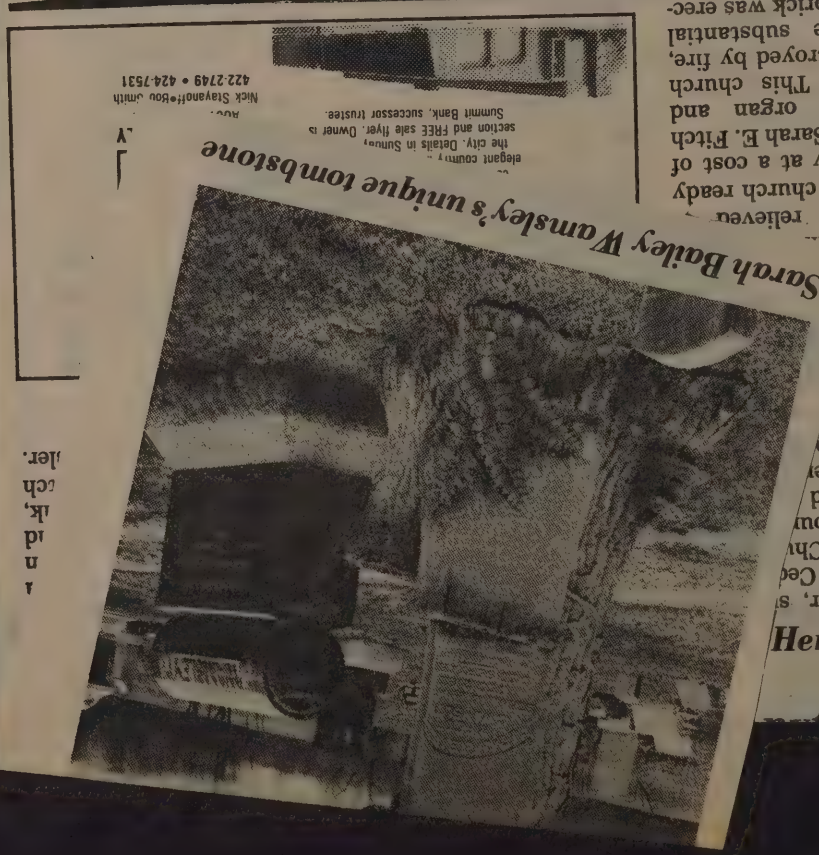
Card of Thanks 17

CARD OF THANKS

We would like to thank everyone that displayed and sold things at our first Easter and Quilt Workshop. Thanks also to the ladies that taught: Joyce Griffiths, quilting; Nel Carteaux, chicken scratch; and Barbara Kirkpatrick, plaster crafts, and also to the people that worked hard at getting things ready. The Green Twp. Community Center. NW-15*

Services 20

Business 21



MEDICINE SHOPPE
• Free Health Care Screenings
• Senior & Group Discounts
• Pre-Schooler Discounts
• Generic Drug Savings
• Ask About Our Low Price Guarant
The Medicine Shoppe
9111 Lima Rd. in W
Tom Riecke, Pharm

Of the five great lakes, only Lake Michigan is wholly in the U.S. The others are partly in Canada.

county ___ 636-2111. Entry deadline is May 25.
Single women between 16 clude: personal interview, evening gown, swimsuit and active sportswear.

Echoes from Eel River

by Sally Green

From Orphelia Smith's newspaper clippings of Fort Wayne News Sentinel, March 18, 1937.

Huntertown Cemetery is more than a century old

Many of the pioneer residents of Perry Township, Allen County, are buried in Perry Township Cemetery at Huntertown which is more than a century old.

Included among those entered in the pioneer burial grounds are Mary Jane Wood Beardsley, the first white child born in the township and William T. Hunter for whom Huntertown was named.

Sidney M. Dunten of Fort Wayne, Secretary of the Cemetery Association, prepared the following history of the cemetery.

In 1833 Thomas and Horace F. Dunten selected the site. Being compelled by the death of an infant daughter of Amos Wood, they cast about for a suitable location where the soil

elected as follows: president, E.H Dunten; secretary, H.L. Bennett; treasurer, T.M. Andrews; trustees, Benjamin Parker, Samuel Rhoades and Nathaniel Fitch.

Next meeting in 1860

The next annual meeting was not called until April 7, 1860 when the following officers were elected: president, Jacob Hilligas; secretary, Joseph Hunter; treasurer, E.G. Wheelock; trustees Mathias Saylor, Jacob Kell and William Hunter.

On May 26, 1869, the board decided that the grounds should be laid off into lots with a stake at each corner. Previously to June 14, 1861 a contract was entered into with John (Johnny) Tucker for grubbing and clearing the grounds for $8. He did his work so well they allowed him $8.25. Also an agreement was made with William McArthur for surveying and platting for $6 which was ordered paid.

Hen House specializes in craft sewing

by Julia Scher

The Hen House in Grabill's Lumberyards houses craft sewing supplies, craft classes and ready-made items.

Glenda Sanders and Mary Sutton started the shop three years ago. They liked the idea of their own store and decided to try it. "It's a lot of work owning your own store, but it's very satisfying," Sutton said.

Sanders sells hand-sewn items at the store. They also sell the patterns to make the items on display in addition to all needed supplies.

Classes are held at the store both during the day and at night. "We try to offer a class at different times so everyone who wants to can take it," Sutton said. Classes include knitting, crocheting, quilting, stencilling and candlewicking.

Sutton and Sanders are also available to give demonstrations to clubs and organizations in the area.



Mary Sutton displays sewing craft items at the Hen House.

B & T HOME REMODELING

References *Licensed*

NEW CONSTRUCTION
ADDITIONS
INSURANCE WORK
FREE ESTIMATES

WILLIAM STEIN 219-489-9162
TERRY SPADE 219-637-3779

Find a buyer fast with an effective,

AMTRAK SPRING SALE

Lions and Boosters plan fish fry

Huntertown Lions and Huntertown School Athletic Boosters are sponsoring a Fish Fry on April 13 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. to raise money for a new popcorn machine for school events.

Richard Fritz will fry the fish. The menu inlcudes cole slaw, applesauce, potato chips, bread and butter, beverage and dessert. Cost is $3.75 for adults, $2 for children ages 6-12 and those five years old and younger are free.

The public is invited.



Echoes from Eel River

by Sally Green

From Orphelia Smith's newspaper clippings of Fort Wayne News Sentinel, March 18, 1937.

Huntertown Cemetery is more than a century old

Many of the pioneer residents of Perry Township, Allen County, are buried in Perry Township Cemetery at Huntertown which is more than a century old.

Included among those entered in the pioneer burial grounds are Mary Jane Wood Beardsley, the first white child born in the township and William T. Hunter for whom Huntertown was named.

Sidney M. Dunten of Fort Wayne, Secretary of the Cemetery Association, prepared the following history of the cemetery.

In 1833 Thomas and Horace F. Dunten selected the site. Being compelled by the death of an infant daughter of Amos Wood, they cast about for a suitable location where the soil was sandy and had good drainage. They chose a three-acre plot in the Northwest quarter of section No. 16. After this first burial it was used by the pioneers as a permanent burial ground. However, it was not until August 9, 1853, that the land was purchased from Jacob Bair, of Holmes County, Ohio for $50. This deed was made to Samuel Rhoades, Joseph Hillegas, Theron M. Andrews, Benjamin Parker and Eldridge G. Wheelock. The original deed is held by Sidney Dunten.

Contains tombs of early pioneers

In this yard, cut in stone, one can find the names of the first pioneers of the vicinity including Benjamin Parker, Nathaniel Fitch the first blacksmith; Ephraim Dunten, who opened the first store; Albert Wood, Mary Jane Wood Beardsley, the first white child born in the township; Ralph Andrews, the first unofficial meteorologist of Allen County; Dr. Eldridge G. Wheelock, the first community physician; William T. Hunter, after whom Huntertown was named; James Vandolah, who built the first successful grist mill; George Simon, and many more.

It was not until 1854 that an association was formed on February 13 of that year pursuant to call a meeting was held at the home of E.H Dunten and officers were elected as follows: president, E.H Dunten; secretary, H.L. Bennett; treasurer, T.M. Andrews; trustees, Benjamin Parker, Samuel Rhoades and Nathaniel Fitch.

Next meeting in 1860

The next annual meeting was not called until April 7, 1860 when the following officers were elected: president, Jacob Hilligas; secretary, Joseph Hunter; treasurer, E.G. Wheelock; trustees Mathias Saylor, Jacob Kell and William Hunter.

On May 26, 1869, the board decided that the grounds should be laid off into lots with a stake at each corner. Previously to June 14, 1861 a contract was entered into with John (Johnny) Tucker for grubbing and clearing the grounds for $8. He did his work so well they allowed him $8.25. Also an agreement was made with William McArthur for surveying and platting for $6 which was ordered paid.

Original stone in place

In March, 1864 Danford Parker was ordered to procure suitable stone to mark the section corners. These stones are still in place. In June 1882, the Association purchased from Mathias Saylor, surviving member of the Cedar Creek Presbyterian Church, one half acre of ground directly across the road for $1. The land had been used for church purposes. This church was destroyed by fire but by May 15, 1883, a sufficient sum had been subscribed to warrant building a new church. By January 17, 1884, the building committee, Jacob Hillegas and George Gump were relieved of duty and the church ready for occupancy at a cost of $1,590. Mrs. Sarah E. Fitch donated the organ and church bell. This church was also destroyed by fire, but a more substantial structure of brick was erected in its place.

In September 1887, an iron fence was erected which is still in good repair. In December 1900, steps were taken to erect a new brick church. By June 3, 1911 the building committee reported completion and was discharged from duty. This church fell into disuse and in summer of 1936 was dismantled.

In February 1914, a need was felt that more ground should be purchased. By 1916 a tract containing 20 acres was procurred providing burial space for the future.

Next week: Cemetery south of Garrett

SMILE TODAY

was sandy and had good drainage. They chose a three-acre plot in the Northwest quarter of section No. 16. After this first burial it was used by the pioneers as a permanent burial ground. However, it was not until August 9, 1853, that the land was purchased from Jacob Bair, of Holmes County, Ohio for $50. This deed was made to Samuel Rhoades, Joseph Hillegas, Theron M. Andrews, Benjamin Parker and Eldridge G. Wheelock. The original deed is held by Sidney Dunten.

Contains tombs of early pioneers

In this yard, cut in stone, one can find the names of the first pioneers of the vicinity including Benjamin Parker, Nathaniel Fitch the first blacksmith; Ephraim Dunten, who opened the first store; Albert Wood, Mary Jane Wood Beardsley, the first white child born in the township; Ralph Andrews, the first unofficial meteorologist of Allen County; Dr. Eldridge G. Wheelock, the first community physician; William T. Hunter, after whom Huntertown was named; James Vandolah, who built the first successful grist mill; George Simon, and many more.

It was not until 1854 that an association was formed on February 13 of that year pursuant to call a meeting was held at the home of E.H Dunten and officers were

Original stone in place

In March, 1864 Danford Parker was ordered to procure suitable stone to mark the section corners. These stones are still in place. In June 1882, the Association purchased from Mathias Saylor, surviving member of the Cedar Creek Presbyterian Church, one half acre of ground directly across the road for $1. The land had been used for church purposes. This church was destroyed by fire but by May 15, 1883, a sufficient sum had been subscribed to warrant building a new church. By January 17, 1884, the building committee, Jacob Hillegas and George Gump were relieved of duty and the church ready for occupancy at a cost of $1,590. Mrs. Sarah E. Fitch donated the organ and church bell. This church was also destroyed by fire, but a more substantial structure of brick was erected in its place.

In September 1887, an iron fence was erected which is still in good repair. In December 1900, steps were taken to erect a new brick church. By June 3, 1911 the building committee reported completion and was discharged from duty. This church fell into disuse and in summer of 1936 was dismantled.

In February 1914, a need was felt that more ground should be purchased. By 1916 a tract containing 20 acres was procurred providing burial space for the future.

Next week: Cemetery south of Garrett

SMILE TODAY

Grave situation: Church moves bodies for road

By BARBARA GOFFMAN
Staff Writer

Sometimes, even a person's final resting place isn't that final.

Since Aug. 1, the Robinson Chapel United Methodist Church has moved the graves of about 30 people buried in the church graveyard on Tonkel Road near Union Chapel Road. The work ended Wednesday.

The graves were next to the road. Now they are more secluded, on the northwest side of the church's property, the Rev. Marti Lundy said.

"This is something the church has been talking about for 10 years," she said. "We are placing them in a more formal, landscaped setting."

The church also is repairing several of the cracked headstones "so they are respectful to the person buried," Lundy said.

The church was built 143 years ago, and some of the people buried in the graveyard helped found the church, Lundy said.

No burials have taken place in the graveyard in more than 60 years, she said.

In 1957, the county widened Tonkel Road, leaving the graveyard directly next to the road. The church building was moved then. The graveyard is being moved now, Lundy said.



SAM HOFFMAN/THE JOURNAL-GAZETTE

Headstones await reconstruction Wednesday behind Robinson Chapel United Methodist Church. Since Aug. 1, the graves of about 30 people buried in the church graveyard on Tonkel Road near Union Chapel Road have been moved. The work ended Wednesday.

He saw that the funnel was coming directly towards him so he got up and tried to run crosswise to the path of the tornado. He had run only 50 to 75 feet, however, when the tornado arrived at the spot where he was.

He changed direction, but the tornado ran right with him. All the while Richey dodged wash tubs, tin, glass and good-sized tree limbs that whirled through the air.

Then the wind picked him up off the ground a foot or two and carried him for some 40 or 50 feet. "I really got scared then," says Richey. "I didn't know whether I'd go up or down, or whether I might hit something on the way."

The wind finally let him down and he landed in a sort of sand pit, much like the pits used by high-jumpers. The effect was something like jumping from an auto moving at 40 or 50 miles an hour, he says. He rolled over and over.

His only injuries were bruises, resulting from small objects that struck him while he was flying through the air. Both front pockets of his pants were half filled with twigs, grass, leaves and other small objects. Tiny pieces of wood were found to be embedded about a quarter inch into his skin, where the wind had driven them.

One leg was quite sore where some kind of an object hit and tore an almost perfectly-round two-inch hole in his pants. What the object was, he could only conjecture. Besides washtubs, glass and pieces of wood, he also saw a bench flying through the air.

The tornado, which Richey believes was the same one that minutes later struck LaPaz, Elkhart and other northern Indiana communities, cut a swathe some 200 feet wide and damaged six or seven of the nearby houses. One house in the area was picked up and deposited on a railroad track, and it was necessary to flare down the train before it struck down the house.

Some high-voltage electrical towers were bent over in the area, and Richey said the fire when the lines went down "looked like an atomic bomb." He searched the golf course for his clubs for about an hour, but never found them. The bag contained the keys to his car, so a mechanic was called who installed a jumper across the switch of his car so that he could get back to Churubusco.

Richey had sever leg cramps from so much running and dodging. His friend was uninjured, having luckily been out-side the swathe of the tornado, where the wind was very strong but not tornadic. It was a memorable experience, says Richey, and one he never wants to repeat. He is, of course, thankful to be alive today.

Noble County young women invited to compete in contest

Applications are now being accepted for Miss Noble County Fair Queen Pageant. This pageant, recognized across the state as outstanding and innovative, provides many opportunities for personal growth.

The Noble County pageant is more than a "beauty" pageant. It is an extensive and educational experience with emphasis on helping contestants make the most of themselves.

Applications and official entry rules may be obtained at East Noble, Central Noble, West Noble or Churubusco high school, or by calling the Noble County Extension Office at 636-2111. Entry deadline is May 25.

Single women between 16 and 21, living in Noble County are eligible for entry. Entry is not limited to 4-H members.

The pageant will be July 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Cole Auditorium at East Noble High School. There is no charge to the public.

The pageant also offers many workshop during which contestants will receive assistance with interview skills, lessons on posture/poise, individual color analysis, pointers for hair styles, makeup techniques and wardrobe.

A sponsor fee of $40 from a business, club, organization and/or individuals (s) is required. Areas of competition include: personal interview, evening gown, swimsuit and active sportswear.

Of the five great lakes, only Lake Michigan is wholly in the U.S. The others are partly in Canada.

MEDICINE SHOPPE
• Free Health Care Screenings
• Senior & Group Discounts
• Pre-Schooler Discounts
• Generic Drug Savings
• Ask About Our Low Price Guarant
Dr. Medicine Shoppe
National Prescription Centers
9111 Lima Rd. in W
Tom Riecke, Pharm

Grave situation: Church moves bodies for road

By BARBARA GOFFMAN
Staff Writer

Sometimes, even a person's final resting place isn't that final.

Since Aug. 1, the Robinson Chapel United Methodist Church has moved the graves of about 30 people buried in the church graveyard on Tonkel Road near Union Chapel Road. The work ended Wednesday.

The graves were next to the road. Now they are more secluded, on the northwest side of the church's property, the Rev. Marti Lundy said.

"This is something the church has been talking about for 10 years," she said. "We are placing them in a more formal, landscaped setting."

The church also is repairing several of the cracked headstones "so they are respectful to the person buried," Lundy said.

The church was built 143 years ago, and some of the people buried in the graveyard helped found the church, Lundy said.

No burials have taken place in the graveyard in more than 60 years, she said.

In 1957, the county widened Tonkel Road, leaving the graveyard directly next to the road. The church building was moved then. The graveyard is being moved now, Lundy said.



SAM HOFFMAN/THE JOURNAL-GAZETTE

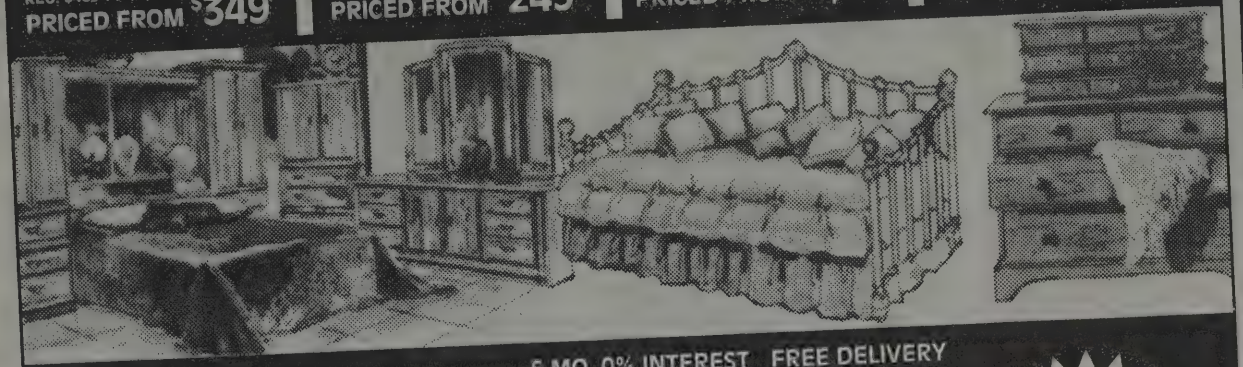
Headstones await reconstruction Wednesday behind Robinson Chapel United Methodist Church. Since Aug. 1, the graves of about 30 people buried in the church graveyard on Tonkel Road near Union Chapel Road have been moved. The work ended Wednesday.

ENTERTAINMENT CABINET
REG. $469 TO $1,069
PRICED FROM $349

CURIO CABINET
REG. $359 TO $1,399
PRICED FROM $249

DINING ROOM
REG. $2,498 TO $6,141
PRICED FROM $1,749

BEDROOM
REG. $1,199 TO $3,696
PRICED FROM $899



6 MO. 0% INTEREST FREE DELIVERY

Wayne
FURNITURE GALLERY
"We only look expensive"

HOURS: Mon-Wed., Fri. 10-8
Tues. & Thurs. 10-5:30
Sat. 10-5 • Closed Sunday

FREE DELIVERY WITHIN 50 MILES

745-5441 2010 Fairfield
(at Taylor-7 blocks North of Old Lutheran Hospital)

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER

50% Off
All National
Wood Kit Plans
Such as Decks, Furniture,
Mini Barns etc.

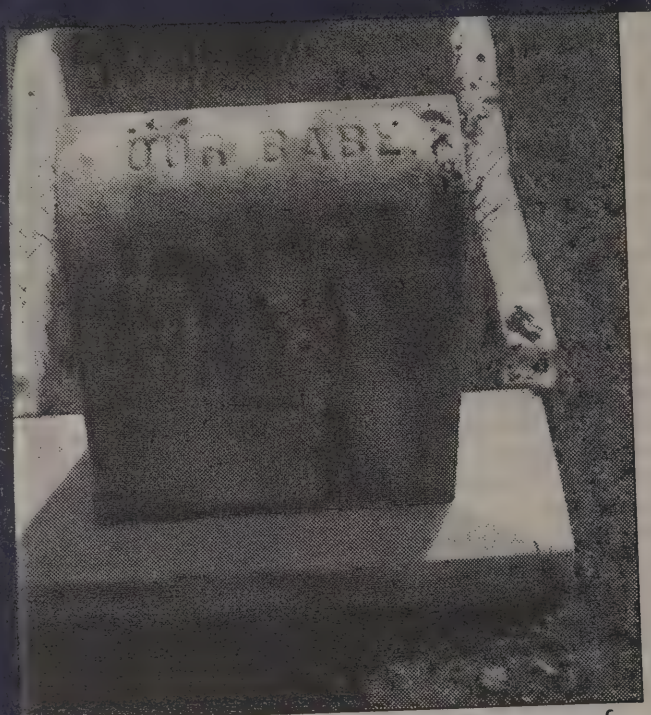
Econom
Stud
2x4-92 5/8
$1.29 ea

BIG R STORES

Low Pr
See S

Master
DISCOVER
VIS

Prices Effec





By LISA DUTTON *of The News-Sentinel*

The families that settled the Huntertown area became prosperous enough to leave their mark on the landscape in the form of ornately carved grave markers such as this limestone tree trunk.

ny space protected by the border stones of aby's grave marker is silent testimony to the w of the family that buried "Our Babe."

f the Huntertown area must be filled in imaginations of the people who visit ler section of the cemetery. Family visi- robably still tell the stories of many of ople buried in the newer section across ad.

meteries such as the Huntertown one ore than grassy plots where families buried their dead.

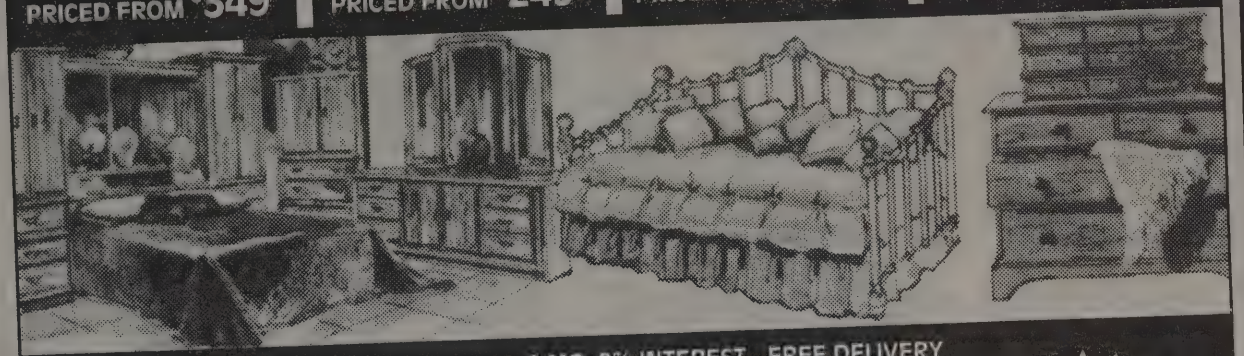
scendants can visit the cemetery to re- n loved ones and their lives. For others, meteries are places to find a lot of histo- l begin to imagine the rest.

ENTERTAINMENT CABINET
REG. $469 TO $1,069
PRICED FROM $349

CURIO CABINET
REG. $359 TO $1,399
PRICED FROM $249

DINING ROOM
REG. $2,498 TO $6,141
PRICED FROM $1,749

BEDROOM
REG. $1,199 TO $3,696
PRICED FROM $899



6 MO. 0% INTEREST FREE DELIVERY

Wayne
FURNITURE GALLERY
"We only look expensive"

HOURS: Mon-Wed., Fri. 10-8
Tues. & Thurs. 10-5:30
Sat. 10-5 • Closed Sunday

FREE DELIVERY WITHIN 50 MILES

745-5441 2010 Fairfield
(at Taylor-7 blocks North of Old Lutheran Hospital)

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER

50% Off
All National
Wood Kit Plans
Such as Decks, Furniture,
Mini Barns etc.

Econom
Stud
2x4-92 5/8
$1.29 ea

BIG R® STORES

Low Pr
See S

Master
DISCOVER
VIS

Prices Effec



Gravestones in old cemeteries are good historical records because they often record family relationships or military service along with the birth and death dates.

Huntertown founder William Hunter was a member of the "Regulators," a vigilante group formed in response to the lack of law enforcement in the area.

STORIES:

Area cemeteries tell tales

▶ *From Page 1N*

mind can conceive of.

Like the story of Captain Phineas Wheelock. Wheelock's stone records his career as an officer with the 4th Regiment U.S. Infantry during the War of 1812. Phineas is undoubtedly related to E.G. Wheelock, who came to the area in 1837 and was the township's first doctor, according to T.B. Helm's "A History of Allen County," published in 1880.

The Huntertown Cemetery was founded in 1834 by the residents of Perry Township, and its first tenant was a Mr. Valentine who drowned in the Cedar Creek. A walk through the cemetery reads like a road map of northwest Allen County. Stones bearing the names of Wheelock, Dunten, Mayhew and Gump, all roads in the area, are scattered throughout.

The cemetery also is the resting place of the Hunter family, the founders of Huntertown.

William Hunter was an Englishman who had lived in New York City and came to the area from Michigan in 1837. He originally took up farming but soon turned to running a hotel for his livelihood, according to the old history book.

When he arrived here, Hunter acquired a large stretch of land a few miles east of the then-new Lima Plank Road, now Indiana 3. He named it Huntertown even though it was not platted out as a city and no lots would be sold until 1872, when the railroad came through the area. He was appointed the township's third postmaster in 1840.

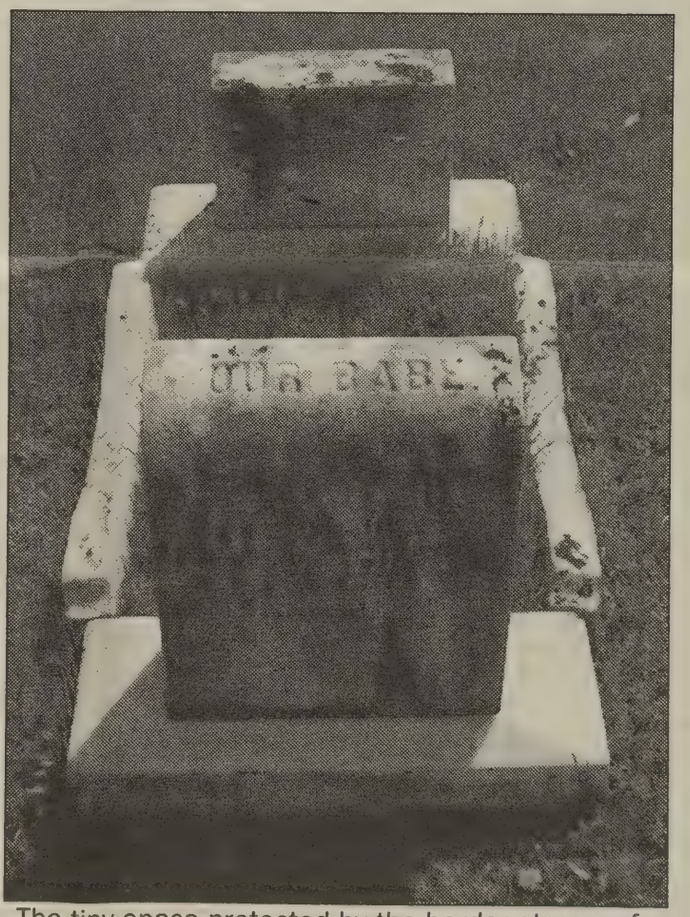
The old history also states that Hunter was a member of the "Regulators," a vigilante group formed in response to the lack of law enforcement in the area.

The Duntens were another prominent family in the area. Thomas and his nephew Horace arrived in the area in the early 1830's and began farming. Later they were joined by Horace's father Ephraim, who would later open up the first tavern in Perry Township along Coldwater Road.

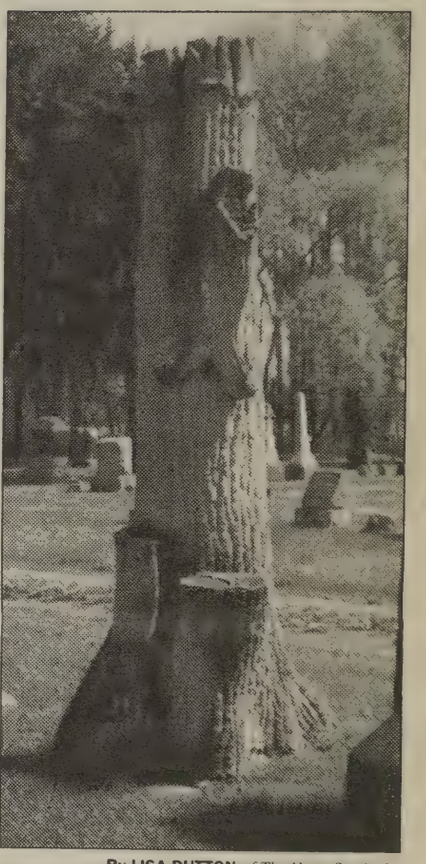
The rest of the stories of these pioneer settlers of the Huntertown area must be filled in by the imaginations of the people who visit the older section of the cemetery. Family visitors probably still tell the stories of many of the people buried in the newer section across the road.

Cemeteries such as the Huntertown one are more than grassy plots where families have buried their dead.

Descendants can visit the cemetery to reflect on loved ones and their lives. For others, the cemeteries are places to find a lot of history and begin to imagine the rest.



The tiny space protected by the border stones of this baby's grave marker is silent testimony to the sorrow of the family that buried "Our Babe."



By LISA DUTTON *of The News-Sentinel*

The families that settled the Huntertown area became prosperous enough to leave their mark on the landscape in the form of ornately carved grave markers such as this limestone tree trunk.

member of the "Regulators," a vigilante group formed in response to the lack of law enforcement in the area.

as an officer with the 4th Regiment U.S. Infantry during the War of 1812. Phineas is undoubtedly related to E.G. Wheelock, who came to the area in 1837 and was the township's first doctor, according to T.B. Helm's "A History of Allen County," published in 1880.

The Huntertown Cemetery was founded in 1834 by the residents of Perry Township, and its first tenant was a Mr. Valentine who drowned in the Cedar Creek. A walk through the cemetery reads like a road map of northwest Allen County. Stones bearing the names of Wheelock, Dunten, Mayhew and Gump, all roads in the area, are scattered throughout.

The cemetery also is the resting place of the Hunter family, the founders of Huntertown.

William Hunter was an Englishman who had lived in New York City and came to the area from Michigan in 1837. He originally took up farming but soon turned to running a hotel for his livelihood, according to the old history book.

When he arrived here, Hunter acquired a large stretch of land a few miles east of the then-new Lima Plank Road, now Indiana 3. He named it Huntertown even though it was not platted out as a city and no lots would be sold until 1872, when the railroad came through the area. He was appointed the township's third postmaster in 1840.

The old history also states that Hunter was a member of the "Regulators," a vigilante group formed in response to the lack of law enforcement in the area.

The Duntens were another prominent family in the area. Thomas and his nephew Horace arrived in the area in the early 1830's and began farming. Later they were joined by Horace's father Ephraim, who would later open up the first tavern in Perry Township along Coldwater Road.

The rest of the stories of these pioneer set-



THE NEWS-SENTINEL
NEIGHBORS
NORTHWEST



STORIES TO TELL

The county's cemeteries, such as the Huntertown Cemetery in Perry Township, have tales for visitors as Memorial Day nears.

Happenings Around Town

Goodies to sell

♦ Bethany Presbyterian Church women will hold a yard sale 9 a.m.-4 p.m. June 4 and 9 a.m.-1 p.m. June 5 at 1616 W. Main St.

♦ Churubusco United Methodist Church will have a rummage sale 9 a.m.-5 p.m. June 3-4 and 9 a.m.-noon June 5 at 750 N. Main St. There will be a bake sale June 3.

Help with reading

Saint Francis College offers summer reading classes July 7-Aug. 5, for students in grades one through eight. The morning classes meet Monday through Thursday. Cost of $210 includes all fees and materials. Registration deadline is June 18. For information: 434-3288.

Montessori program

Three Rivers Montessori School is accepting applications for full- and part-day students in its summer preschool program. Before- and after-school care is available.

For children 3 to 6, the school will provide nine weeks of activities and swimming lessons. Students needn't be enrolled for the entire period.

Three Rivers is a preschool for children 18 months to 6 years old. A limited number of spaces are available for the 1993-94 school year. Information: 426-6143.

Fencing competition

IPFW's Fencing Club will sponsor a summer fencing tournament May 29 at the Gates Sports Center. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.; competition starts at 8. Cost is $2. Free parking is available. Information: David Pass at 486-5145.

Kids' art classes

Artlink offers two drawing and painting workshops for children in grades one through six. The week-long sessions will be June 28-July 2 and July 5-9. Classes meet 10-11:30 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m. at the YWCA, 2000 N. Wells St. Cost of $25 per week includes all materials. Information: 424-7195.

IPFW license plates

Faculty, staff, alumni and friends of IU-Purdue Fort Wayne may order special edition 1994 Indiana license plates featuring the IPFW logo. A purchaser must pay the Indiana-Purdue Foundation $25 when placing the order and must pay the license branch $10 when picking up the plate in 1994. These fees are in addition to state registration fees, excise taxes and applicable county and local taxes. Order deadline is July 26. Information: 481-6807.

Training for older drivers

Lutheran Hospital's ElderMed program offers Coaching the Mature Driver, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. June 2 at 3024 Fairfield Ave. The free defensive driving course for drivers 55 and older is sponsored by the Indiana State Bureau of Motor Vehicles. No driving is required. The class will be repeated 9 a.m.-4 p.m. June 3. To register, call 458-2003.

June craft fun

The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department offers the following craft classes in June:

♦ **Paint a patriotic T-shirt or sweat shirt** 6:30-9:30 p.m. June 10 at the Community Center, 233 W. Main St. Participants should bring a white, 50 percent cotton shirt that has been prewashed with no fabric softener. Cost is $15 for city residents, $18 for nonresidents. Register by June 4.

♦ **Create a Liberty Bunny decoration** that can be used as a Fourth of July centerpiece. The class meets 7-9 p.m. June 7 at the Community Center. Participants should bring an empty 2-liter pop bottle, a ⅜-inch-diameter dowel that is 14 inches long, and a 4-inch-diameter Styrofoam ball. All other materials will be provided. Cost is $18 for city residents, $22 for nonresidents. Register by June 2.

For information, call 483-0057. T.D.D. number is 471-3581.

White River games

Fort Wayne will be the site of the White River Park State Games regional competition June 26-28.

Youths and adults from Allen and 12 neighboring counties may compete in basketball, bowling, cycling, a 5-mile run, a 3-mile walk, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, table tennis, tennis, track and field, and volleyball.

Diving, figure skating, judo, racquetball, water polo and wrestling will be held on a "finals only" basis July 17-18 in Indianapolis.

Single-elimination tennis competition will be June 22-27 at Swinney and McMillen tennis centers. Recreational singles includes seven age groups, male and female divisions, and an Open. The top two finishers in singles will advance to the finals in Indianapolis. Entry fee is $12. Match times will be confirmed by mail after June 7.

Sanctioned tennis matches requiring USTA membership are "finals only" events that will take place in Indianapolis.

The golf tournament, including individual and team competitions, will be June 26-27 at Foster Park Golf Course. There are numerous divisions by age and gender, plus team competition. The top two finishers/teams per division will advance to the finals in Indianapolis. Entry fee is $12 plus greens fees. Tee times will be confirmed by mail after June 7.

Registration deadline for all events is June 7. Those who register by June 1 will receive a discount on entry fees. For a handbook with details, rules and entry forms, call 1-800-443-4837 or 483-0057.

Winning roses

For the fourth consecutive year, Fort Wayne's Lakeside Rose Garden received the Outstanding Maintenance Award from All-American Rose Selections Inc., Chicago. The garden "exemplifies AARS's high standards for rose care and presentation," said Patti Tobin, the group's director of communications. The head gardener at Lakeside is Bruce Henschen.

Summer basketball

The Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department offers men's and women's open division summer basketball leagues for 11th- and 12th-grade players and adults. The women's league plays at 6 p.m. Sundays at North Side High School, beginning June 20. The men's league plays Thursday and Sunday evenings at McMillen Park, beginning June 16.

Players may register as individuals or teams by June 1. Cost is $45 per person or $360 per team for city residents, $50 or $400 for nonresidents. Information: 483-0057, Ext. 210.

Junior Golf Tour

Registration is under way for the 1993 Junior Golf Tour, sponsored by Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation with proceeds from the Mad Anthonys.

The program for ages 10-18 includes three age divisions for boys, two for girls. The series of 10 tournaments will be June 14-Aug. 13.

Cost is $20 plus greens fees at each course. Information: 483-0057.

Flags put to rest

Five Waynedale-area Boy Scout troops will hold their annual flag-burning ceremony at 7 p.m. June 14 at the Scout House, corner of Ardmore Avenue and Lower Huntington Road. Owners of worn-out U.S. flags may drop them off for disposal at 2223 Bryant Court, 2702 Witchwood Drive or the Scout House (or call Scoutmaster Brad Springer at 747-7490 for pickup).

First-aid providers

The Allen-Wells Chapter of the American Red Cross provides first aid stations staffed with trained and certified volunteers for area events, including sports events and company picnics. Information: 480-8240.

Kiwanis sign-up

Kiwanis International will hold informational meetings at 7 p.m. June 8 and 9 at the Shrine Temple, 407 W. Berry St., for those wishing to join a local Kiwanis Club. Current members will answer questions.

Exquisite Mexican Cuisine
La Hacienda Restaurante
$3 OFF Mexican Dinner of Your Choice
with purchase of another Mexican Dinner at reg. price. Limited selection. Not good with other coupons. Dine in only.
1 Coupon Per Check
Good 7 days a week.
Expires 6-5-93

La Hacienda Restaurant & Lounge
Parkwest Center...West Jefferson at Hwy. 14
Coupon good at this location only! Phone 432-9721

Dick's MARKET
PEPSI Reg., Diet, Mt. Dew, Dr. Pepper, Caffeine Free
2 Liter $1.29
8-20 Oz. ..... No Return $3.99
12 Pk. cans $3.99
GROUND BEEF 10-Lb. Pkg. $12.99
Troyer's BULK BACON $1.09 lb.
Johnsville BRATWURST Reg., Italian & Beer $1.99 lb.
COUPON
PEPSI
$1.00 OFF
Two 12-pack Cans with Coupon
Coupon Expires 5-31-93
3031 W. Washington Ctr. Road
Mon.-Sat. 9 AM - 9 PM Sun. 10 AM - 6 PM
489-9420

Computers 'N Kids
Fort Wayne's Oldest Kids Training Center
Summer Programs
Classes for Ages 3-15
Tailored to Skill Level
One Student Per PC
1, 2 or 4 Week Programs
Proven Curriculum
+ Computer Skills
+ Programming
+ Keyboarding
+ Word Processing
+ Database & MORE!
Register NOW! Classes fill quickly.
ENROLL in MAY and SAVE $10
Experienced in Training Over 800 Students on IBM Compatibles
489-0229
TRAINING CENTER LOCATIONS
NORTH SOUTHWEST
We Exercise the MIND!!

When Comparing The Wooden Swingsets, Quality Is The Difference
✓ Long Lasting Appearance
✓ Safety of Your Child
✓ Proud to Offer Warranties For Longer Period of Time Than Competitors
✓ Finest Material
✓ 18 Yrs. Building Experience in the Wooden Swingset Industry
✓ Buy Direct From the Manufacturer - Cut the Retail Operating Cost.

ROCKWELL'S COUNTRY SETTINGS INC
Delivery & Installation Available
For A Free Colored Brochure, 219-982-2936
Stop & See Our Display
Take 114 West through N. Manchester to the intersection of 114 and 13. Turn left (south) onto St. Rd. 13, go approximately 1 mile and turn left onto Wabash Rd.

THE NEWS-SENTINEL
NEIGHBORS
NORTHWEST



By LISA DUTTON *of The News-Sentinel*

The old iron fence eternally welcomes vistors to the older section of Huntertown Cemetery on Cedar Canyons Road.

STORIES TO TELL

The county's cemeteries, such as the Huntertown Cemetery in Perry Township, have tales for visitors as Memorial Day nears.

By RICHARD TURNER
of The News-Sentinel

Cedar Canyons Road runs right through the middle of Huntertown Cemetery.

On the north side of the road, the polished tombstones, arranged in perfect rows with uniform spacing, gleam in the early-morning sunlight.

On the south side, older stones, not always entirely upright and sometimes broken off, are mixed with newer ones.

Here and there a large cedar or pine tree pushes its way above the stones, and large family monuments tower over the smaller stones. An old iron fence encloses the cemetery, and the narrow iron gateway, which looks as if it hasn't been closed in years, stands open with grass growing up over its bottom rail.

Cemeteries are plots of history with stories to tell, quiet stories that all end the same way.

Sometimes the tales are half imagination. The sight of an interesting stone or unusual name can start the mind writing a fictional biography, a story about a stranger from the past.

Not all of the tales to be found require imagination. A little research can turn up stories that are as fascinating as any the

See STORIES, *Page 6N* ▶

5525 Coldwater Rd.
484-7355
MON.-FRI. 7-7
SAT. 8-4
EXTRA COUPON
FREE
99¢
SHIRT
LAUNDRY
SPECIAL
99 Per Shirt
NING
rder $15.00
her, Suede, and
ems. Present
col

Work in hospital gift shop

The Volunteer Connection, a program of Switchboard Inc., is a clearinghouse for volunteer opportunities with nonprofit organizations in Allen County.

Volunteers

See STORIES, *Page 6N* ▶

Recycling collections

If you have general recycling questions, call Ronda Hanning at the Allen County Solid Waste District, 428-7265.

Here's the monthly listing of recycling collections scheduled in June for the northwest area.

Allen County, curbside pickup by National Serv-all. Call 747-4117 for details.

Bass Leesburg addition, curbside pickup by National Serv-all, Wednesdays.

Cedar Creek Lions Club, 8-11 a.m. June 5 behind Grabill Hardware.

Concordia Gardens, curbside pickup by National Serv-all, Mondays.

Recycling Enterprise operates recycling collections at four Scott's stores: Village at Coventry, Decatur Road, North Clinton and Maplecrest. Hours: noon-4 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday; 9 a.m.-noon and 1-6 p.m. Thursday-Friday; and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. CARE's main site on the north side of New Haven Avenue across from Phelps Dodge is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Sites accept aluminum and nonferrous metals, glass, plastic, car batteries, computer and bond paper, newspaper, steel food cans, polystyrene, and glossy magazines and catalogs. The main site also will accept cardboard.

Stone Pointe apartments, curbside pickup by L & D Recycling, Wednesdays.

Cemeteries are plots of history with stories to tell, quiet stories that all end the same way.

By RICHARD TURNER
of The News-Sentinel

Cedar Canyons Road runs right through the middle of Huntertown Cemetery.

On the north side of the road, the polished tombstones, arranged in perfect rows with uniform spacing, gleam in the early-morning sunlight.

On the south side, older stones, not always entirely upright and sometimes broken off, are mixed with newer ones.

Here and there a large cedar or pine tree pushes its way above the stones, and large family monuments tower over the smaller stones. An old iron fence encloses the cemetery, and the narrow iron gateway, which looks as if it hasn't been closed in years, stands open with grass growing up over its bottom rail.

Cemeteries are plots of history with stories to tell, quiet stories that all end the same way.

Sometimes the tales are half imagination. The sight of an interesting stone or unusual name can start the mind writing a fictional biography, a story about a stranger from the past.

Not all of the tales to be found require imagination. A little research can turn up stories that are as fascinating as the

By LISA DUTTON *of The News-Sentinel*

The old iron fence eternally welcomes vistors to the older section of Huntertown Cemetery on Cedar Canyons Road.



Gravestone of the
Nathaniel Fitch family

Perry Cemetery by
Huntertown, Perry Town
Allen County, Indiana

Nathaniel Fitch
July 9 - 1808 - 06 (?)
Jan. 1 - 1877

taken Aug. 1969

Note: Nathaniel was a
blacksmith



Sarah E. DeLong
wife of Nathaniel
Fitch born
May 29, 1818
died Sept. 2, 1908

MARRIAGE 6-4-1840

Perry Township Cemetery

(Continued from p. 12)

It was not until 1854 that an association was formed on February 13 of that year pursuant to call a meeting was held at the home of E. H. Dunten and officers were elected as follows: President, E. H. Dunten; secretary, H. L. Bennett; treasurer, T. M. Andrews; trustees, Benjamin Parker, Samuel Rhoades and Nathaniel Fitch.

Next Meeting In 1860

The next annual meeting was not called until April 7, 1860, when the following officers were elected: President, Jacob Hillegass; secretary, Joseph Hunter; treasurer, E. G. Wheelock; trustees, Mathias Saylor, Jacob Kell and William Hunter.

On May 26, 1860, the board decided that the grounds should be laid off into lots with a stake at each corner. Previously to June 14, 1861, a contract was entered into with John (Jonny) Tucker for grubbing and clearing the ground for $8. He did his work so well they allowed him $8.25. Also an agreement was made with William McArthur for surveying and platting, for $6, which was ordered paid.

Original Stones In Place

In March, 1864, Danford Parker was ordered to procure suitable stone to mark the section corners. These stones are still in place. In June, 1882, the association purchased from Mathias Saylor, surviving member of the Cedar Creek Presbyterian Church, one-half acre of ground directly across the road for $1. The land had been used for church purposes. This church was destroyed by fire but by May 15, 1883, a sufficient sum had been subscribed to warrant building a new church. By January 17, 1884, the building committee, Jacob Hillegass and George Gump, were relieved of duty and the church ready for occupancy at a cost of $1,590. Mrs. Sarah E. Fitch donated the organ and church bell. This church was also destroyed by fire, but a more substantial structure of brick was erected in its place. In September, 1887, an iron fence was erected which is still in good repair. In December, 1900, steps were taken to erect a new brick church. By June 3, 1911, the building committee reported completion and was discharged from duty. This church fell into disuse and in the Summer of 1936 was dismantled.

In February, 1914, a need was felt that more ground should be purchased. By 1916 a tract containing 20 acres was procured providing burial space for the future.

The current officers and board of Perry Township Cemetery are: Morris Bracht-president; Lela Rinehold-treasurer; Helen Warner-secretary; and members Glen Shank, Phillip Dickes, Mary Hatch and Howard Hosler.



Rapin Andrews, first county meteorologist

AUCTION
UNIQUE CONTEMPORARY HOME
ON PARTIALLY WOODED 3.012 ACRES
at 1114 Dodane Road...go one mile south of Ferguson Road on Winchester Road to Dodane, then east to sale site.
SATURDAY • APRIL 28 • 10 A.M.
Beautiful sprawling contemporary with comfort features for those desiring elegant country living yet convenient to the city. Details in Sunday Auction section and FREE sale flyer. Owner is Summit Bank successor trustee
OPEN HOUSE
APRIL 8, 15 & 22
1 5 P.M.
ROTH & WEHRLY
AUCTION CO., INC
Nick Stayanoff•Bob Smith
422 2749 • 424 7531



Gravestone of the
Nathaniel Fitch family

Perry Cemetery by
Huntertown, Perry Town
Allen County, Indiana

Nathaniel Fitch
July 9 - 1808 - 06 (?)
Jan. 1 - 1877

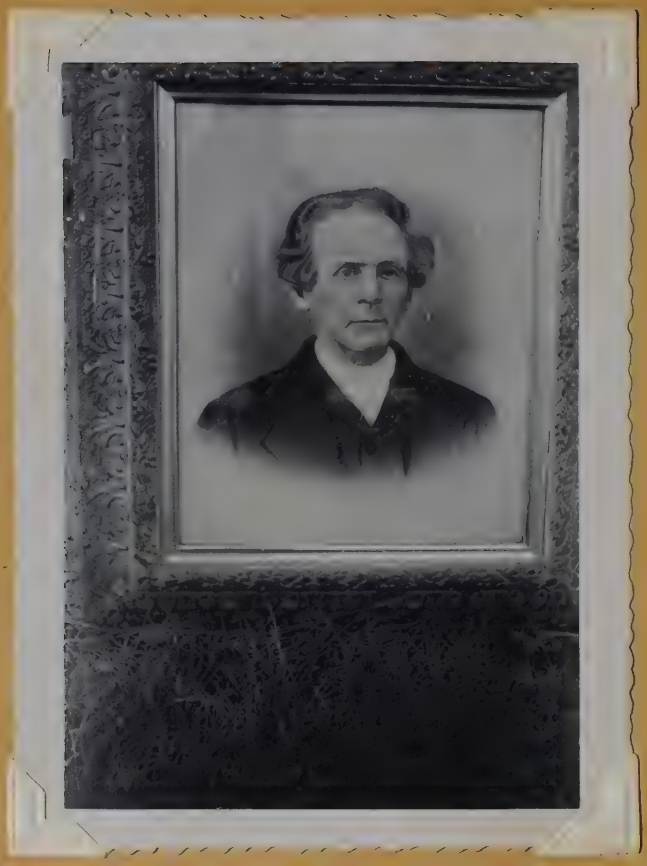
taken Aug. 1969

Note: Nathaniel was a
blacksmith



Sarah E. DeLong
wife of Nathaniel
Fitch born
May 29, 1818
died Sept. 2, 1908

MARRIAGE 6-4-1840



Nathaniel Fitch

photo of photo
taken at Belle Fitch's
home about 1950 or 51
It was probably Belle's
or Gladys's.



Taken 1993



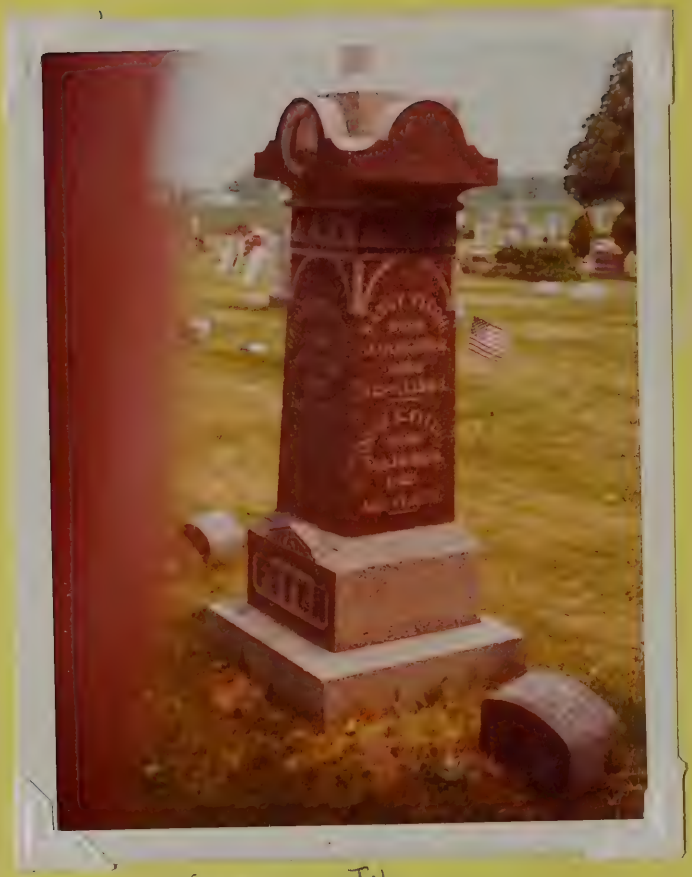




SARAH

NATHANIEL FITCH GRAVESTONE
PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETERY

MAY 1972



Nancy + John







Nancy Fitch
born March 16, 1848
died Sept. 1, 1848
5 ½ months old –

John E. Fitch
born Feb. 14, 1864
died May 19, 1870
6 yrs. old –



Shows small stones of Mother, Father, Nancy and John

1-16-1843
to
12-10-1923



Mathias Fitch Gravestone

2-19-1843
5-26-1923



Frances Fitch Gravestone
Wife of Mathias Fitch

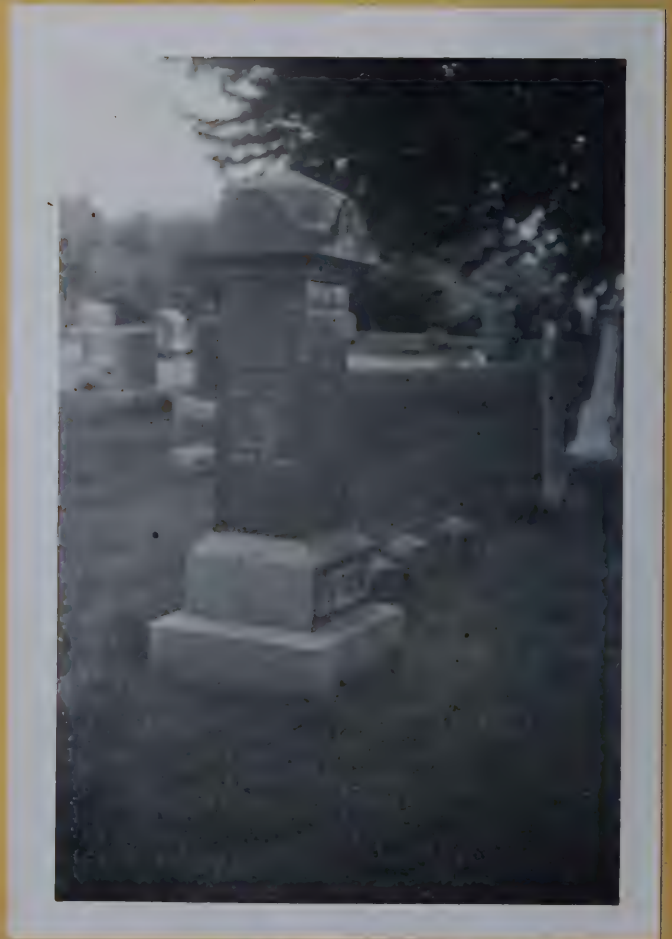
Taken May 1972





Gravestone of the Nathaniel Fitch family
Perry Cemetery by Huntertown, Indiana

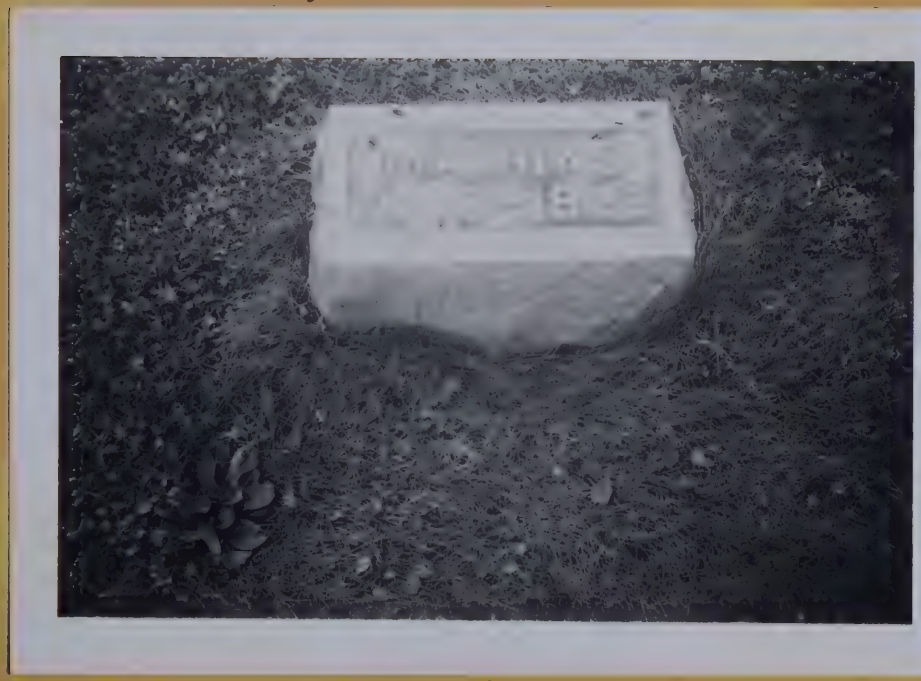




taken Aug. 1969



Fitch gravestone at Perry Cemetery by Huntertown, Perry Township, Allen County, Indiana. Stone of Mathias in the fore ground



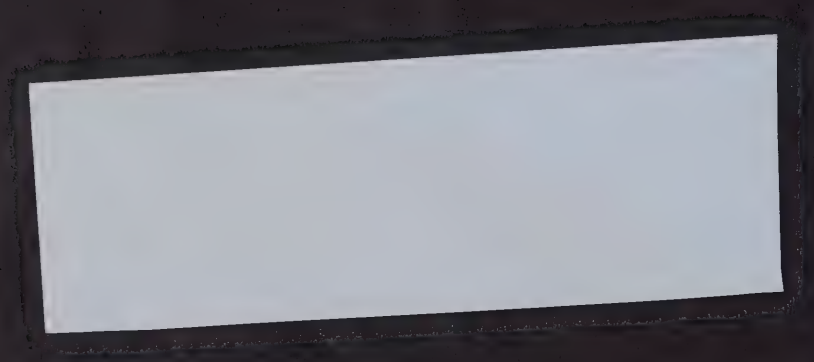
Gravestone of Mathias Fitch
1843 - 1923

taken Aug. 1969





John + Belle
Cedar Chapel Cem.
DeKalb Co., IN
Rd 68 and 11A



HUNTERTOWN CEMETERY

Thursday, March 18, 1937

Many of the pioneer residents of Perry Township, Allen County, are buried in the Perry Township Cemetery at Huntertown which is more than a century old. Included among those interred in the pioneer burial grounds are Mary Jane Wood Beardsley, the first white child born in the township, and William T. Hunter, for whom Huntertown was named.

Sidney M. Dunten, of Fort Wayne Rural Route 1, secretary of the cemetery association, prepared the following history of the cemetery:

In 1833 Thomas and Horace F. Dunten selected the site. Being compelled by the death of an infant daughter of Amos Wood, they cast about for a suitable location where the soil was sandy and had good drainage. They chose a three-acre plot in the northwest quarter of Section 16. After this first burial it was used by the pioneers as a permanent burial ground. However, it was not until August 9, 1853, that the land was purchased from Jacob Bair, of Holmes County, Ohio for $50. This deed was made to Samuel Rhoades, Joseph Hillegass, Theron M. Andrews, Benjamin Parker and Elbridge G. Wheelock. The original deed now is held by Sidney Dunten.

In this yard, cut in stone, one can find the names of the first pioneers of the vicinity including Benjamin Parker; Nathaniel Fitch, the first blacksmith; Ephriam Dunten, who opened the first store; Albert Wood; Mary Jane Wood Beardsley, the first white child born in the township; Ralph Andrews, the first unofficial meterologist of Allen County; Dr. Elbridge G. Wheelock, first community physician; William T. Hunter, after whom Huntertown was named; James Vandolah, who built the first successful grist mill; George Simon and many more.

It was not until 1854 that an association was formed on February 13 of that year pursuant to call, a meeting was held at the home of E. H. Dunten and officers were elected as follows: President, E. H. Dunten; secretary, H. L. Bennett; treasurer, T. M. Andrews; turstees, Benjamin Parker, Samuel Rhoades and Nathaniel Fitch.

The next annual meeting was not called until April 7, 1860, when the following officers were elected: President, Jacob Hillegass; secretary, Joseph Hunter; treasurer, E. G. Wheelock; trustees, Mathias Saylor, Jacob Kell and William Hunter.

On May 26, 1860, the board decided that the grounds should be laid off into lots with a stake at each corner. Previously to June 14, 1861, a contract was entered into with John (Jonny) Tucker for grubbing and clearing the grounds for $8. He did his work so well they allowed him $8.25. Also an agreement was made with William McArthur for surveying and platting, for $6. which was ordered paid.

In March 1864, Danford Parker was ordered to procure suitable stone to mark the section corners. These stones are still in place. In June, 1882, the association purchased from Mathias Saylor, surviving member of the Cedar Creek Presbyterian Church, one-half acre of ground directly across the road for $1. The land had been used for church purposes. This church was destroyed by fire buy by May 15, 1883, a sufficient sum had been subscribed to warrant building a new church. In January 1884 the church was ready for occupancy, Mrs. Sarah E. Fitch donated the organ and church bell.

In February 1914, a need was felt that more ground should be purchased. By 1916 a tract containing 20 acres was procured providing burial space for the future.

PERRY TOWNSHIP CEMETARY 1994





Nathaniel Fitch July 9, 1806 to Jan 1, 1877
Sarah Elizabeth DeLong Fitch May 29, 1818 to Sept. 2, 1908



Mathias





Harvey Fitch, 9th child of Nathaniel & Sarah
Married Permelia Etta Parker

PIONEER FAMILY MEMBER IS DEAD

Mrs. Nancy Elizabeth Fitch, Aged 81, Succumbs at Home in DeKalb County.

FUNERAL RITES TUESDAY

Mrs. Nancy Elizabeth Fitch, aged 81, member of a pioneer family of Allen County, died Sunday noon at 12:15 o'clock at her home in Butler Township, Dekalb County, after a brief illness. Mrs. Fitch was the daughter of William Todd Hunter who was one of the first settlers at the site now known as Huntertown. The town was named for Mr. Hunter who came to this country from England. Mrs. Fitch was the last member of this family.

Mrs. Fitch was born at Huntertown, January 22, 1849. She was married to Amos Fitch November 27, 1878 and the couple lived in Dekalb County since their marriage over fifty years ago.

Surviving are the husband; a son, Rolland H. Fitch, of this city; three daughters, Miss Glady Fitch, at home, and Mrs. Harry West and Mrs. Arthur Houser, both of Garrett, and three grandchildren, Richard, Elaine and Joan Houser, of Garrett.

Funeral services will be held at the home on the Allen-Dekalb County line Tuesday at 2 o'clock, daylight saving time, with the Rev. Arthur J. Folsom, of this city, officiating, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Fenstermacher, of Huntertown. Interment will be made in Cedar Chapel Cemetery.





Perry Fitch family

Kelsey David Fitch
1878 - 1946

Artie Otto Fitch
1883 - 1944



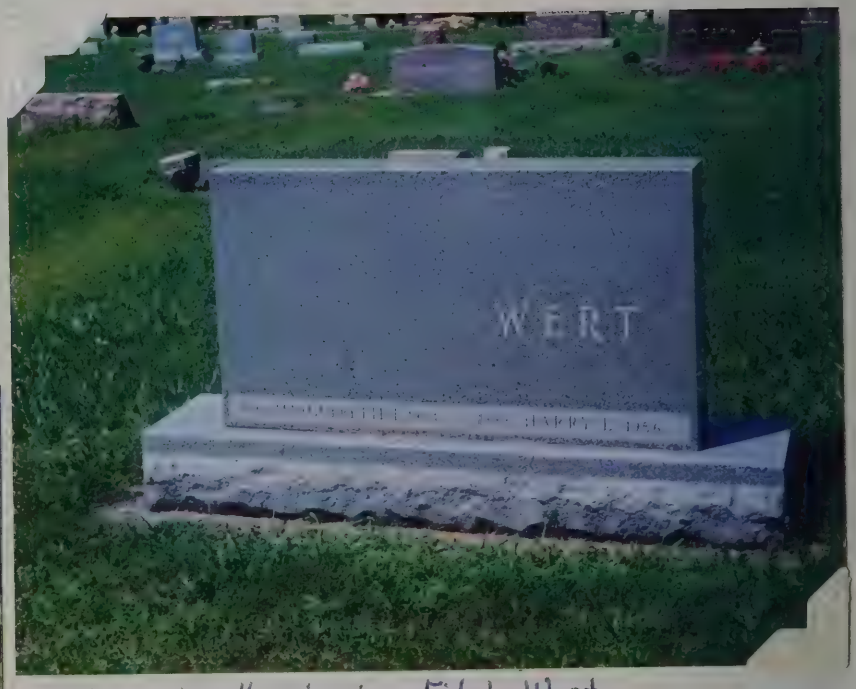
Perry Fitch
Jan 6, 1842 to April 14, 1900

Sarah Elizabeth Gloyd Fitch
April 9, 1844 to June 1, 1920

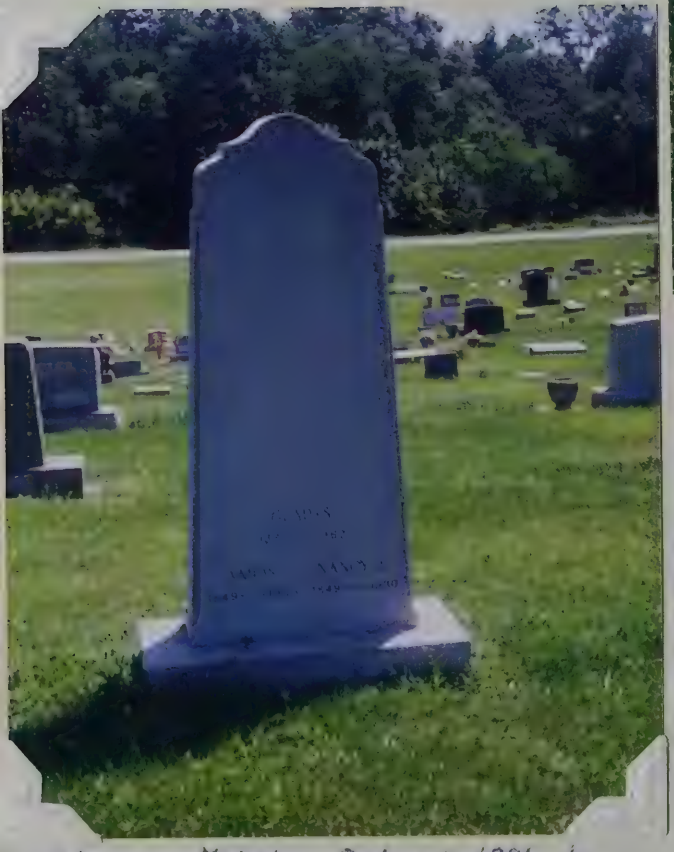
Cedar Chapel, DeKalb Co.



Marie Elaine Fitch Houser
June 29, 1891 to



Marguerette Louise Fitch Wert
Jan 28, 1894 to 1984



Gladys Fitch Oct 15, 1881 to
Oct 30, 1962

Amos Fitch
June 11, 1849 to
Nov 9, 1935
Nancy Hunter Fitch
Jan. 22, 1849
June 1, 1930

Where are they buried?

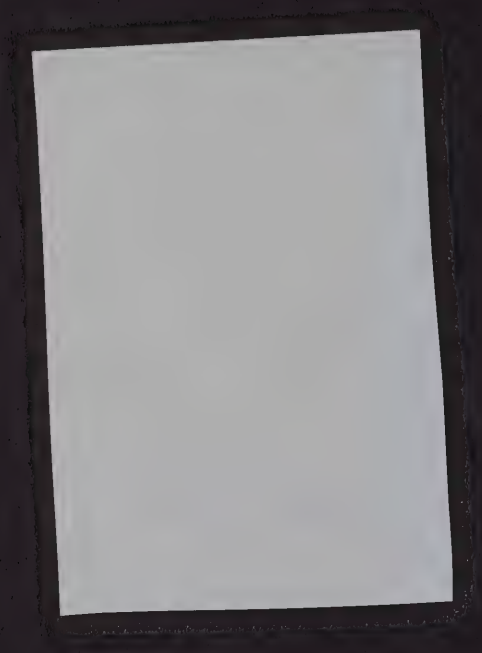
with Gladys I guess, one stone

John B. Fitch 2-20-47

John B. Fitch, 74, died at 2:30 p.m. Thursday at his home on U.S. Highway 27 at the Dekalb-Allen county line. He spent his entire life in the Perry Township community and was a member of the Cedar Chapel Methodist Church.

Surviving are the widow, Belle Hollopeter Fitch; a daughter, Mrs. Grace Cople, Kimmel; two sons, Maurice, Huntertown, and Otis, R. R. 1, Garrett; seven grandchildren; a brother, Schylur, Seattle, Wash., and a sister, Mrs. Beatrice Leaycraft, Los Angeles, Calif.

The body will be returned to the home from the Iler Mortuary, Garrett, Saturday morning. Funeral services will be held at the Cedar Chapel Church Sunday at 2 p.m., with the Rev. H. A. Davis in charge. Burial will be in Cedar Chapel Cemetery.





The Gravestone of
John B. Fitch 1872 - 1947
and
Belle Hollopeter Fitch 1874 - 1953
Cedar Chapel Cemetery, DeKalb Co., Indiana
Just north of Allen-DeKalb Co. line
taken Aug. 1969







These I beleive are in the Perry Township Cemetary
They were with Esther's pictures


OLIVER J.
FITCH
1871—1965

Perry Twp. Cem.

Etta M. wife of
1868-1901

Son of Perry



Rolland H. Fitch 1884-1959 Son of Amos
Margaret Gutermuth 1888-1943
m. 1930

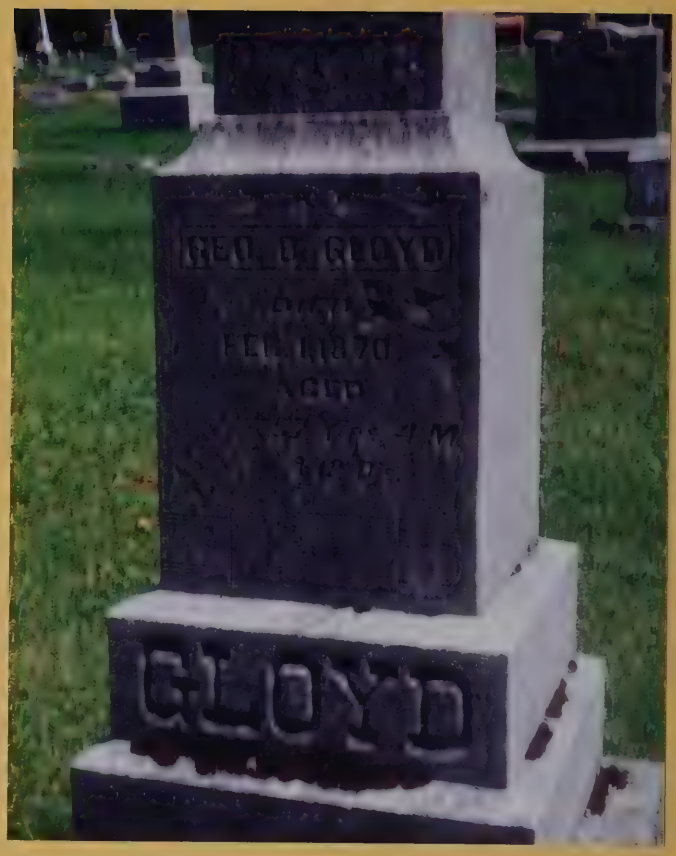


Anise Maria Schopf
b. 3-22-1875
d. 12-28-1930

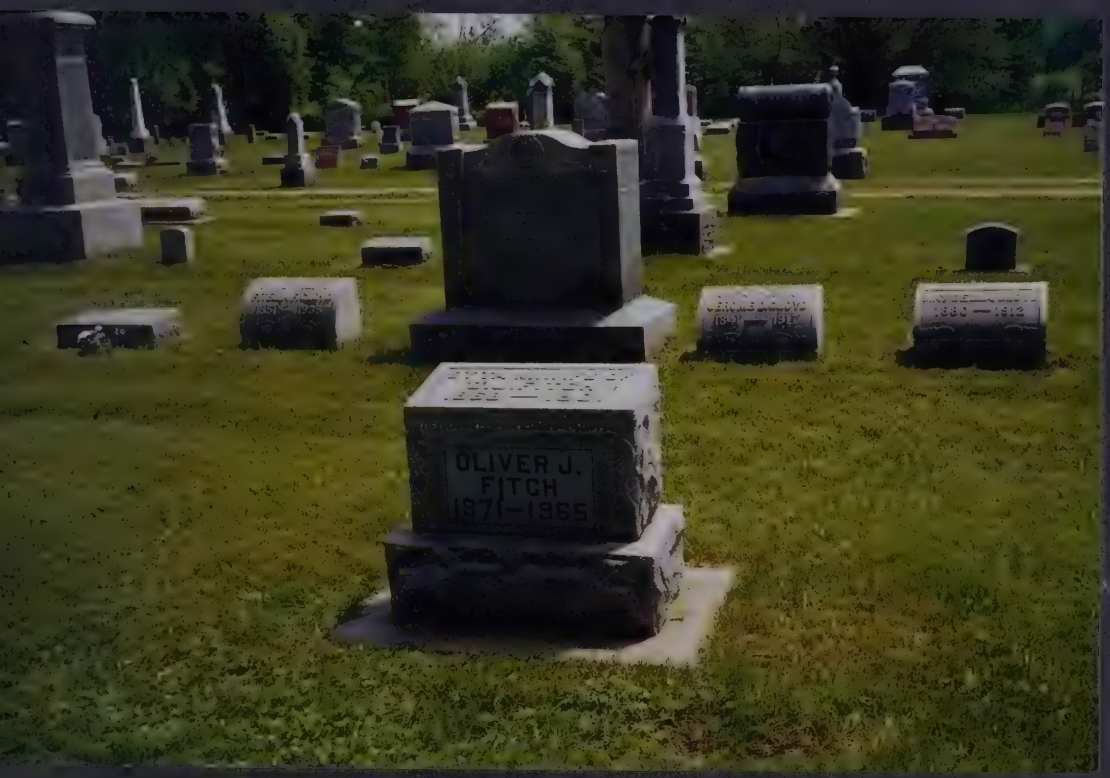
Bert Centennial Fitch
son of Perry
b. 7-4-1876
d. 5-21-1964

Buried Cedar Chapel Cemetery - Rd 68

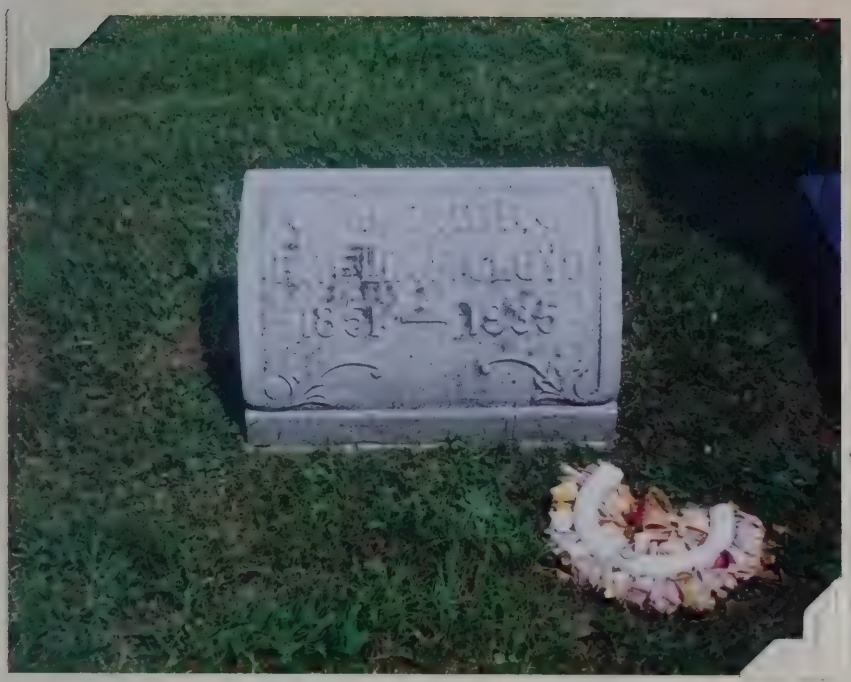

GLOYD


GLOYD


EDWIN C.
GLOYD


OLIVER J.
FITCH
1871—1965

Oliver Jasper Fitch
1871 - 1965
Etta M. Merriman, his wife
1868 - 1901 son of Perry

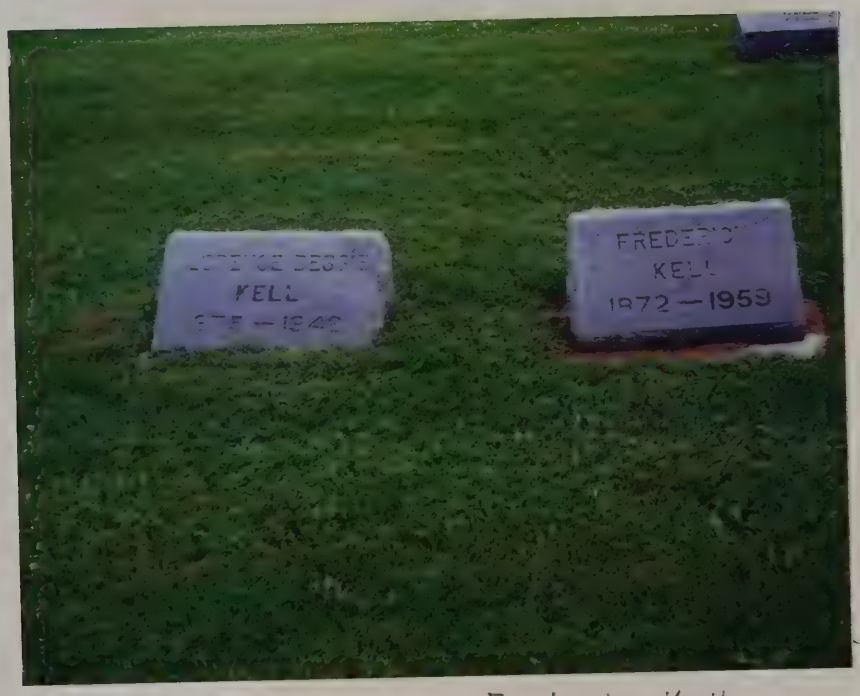


Fitelia Fitch Gloyd
(one of the twins)
daughter of Nathaniel & Sarah
married
Jerome D. Gloyd





Maurice Fitch
son of John + Belle Fitch
married Lois Byerly



John Kell (G.)
Died July 1, 1861

Florence Bessie (Fitch) Kell
1875 - 1942

Frederic Kell
1872 - 1959

These are the parents of
Carolyn Kell Davis
"Jake" Kell
Mary Ann Kell Arnold
Elizabeth DeBolt

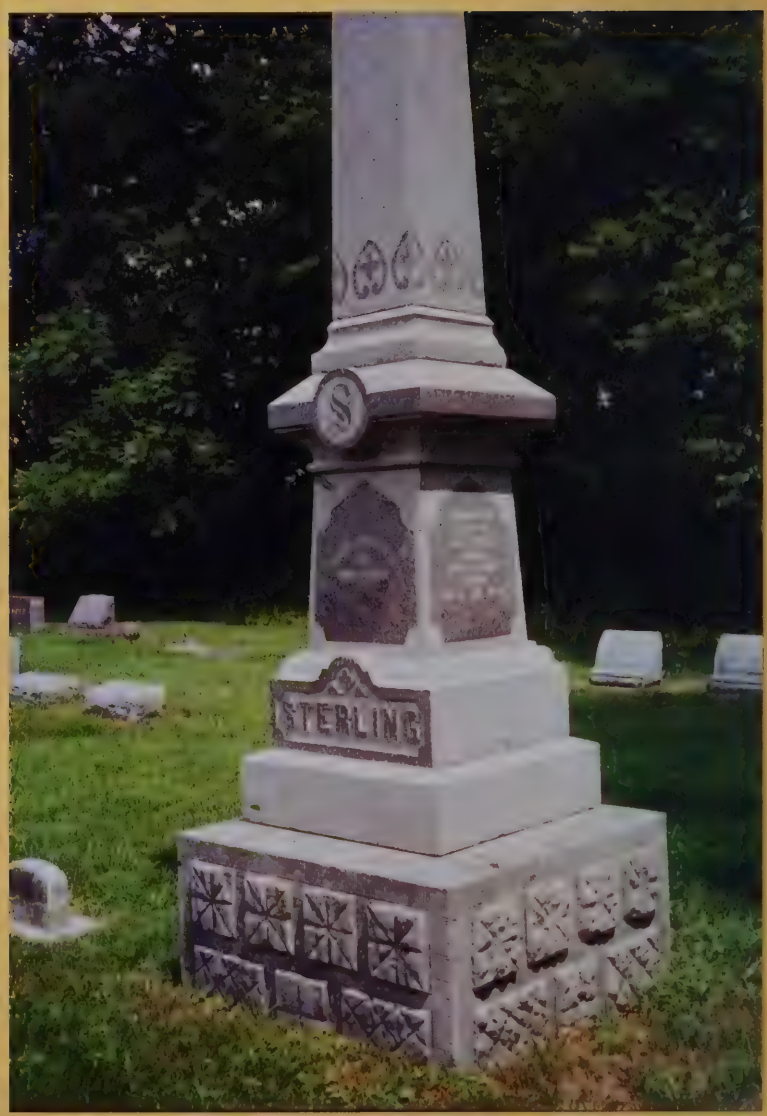
He has gone and much we miss him
We are sad and will
But the Lord who gave him took him
To a better should go

According to the County Cemetery book the age is 72 Y 1 mo 13 days. If so John G. Kell would have been born in 1789 making him a generation older than Jacob


MYRTLE M.
1892 – 1980
WALTER V.
1889 – 1975
KELL




ELIZABETH
WIFE OF
GEO. KELLY
DIED
AGED


STERLING



Prob. the family of
Jacob Kell and Catherine




B. MAY KELL
EMRICH


MARY M KELL
PHILLIPS

Ferry Twp. Cemetery near
Huntertown, IN

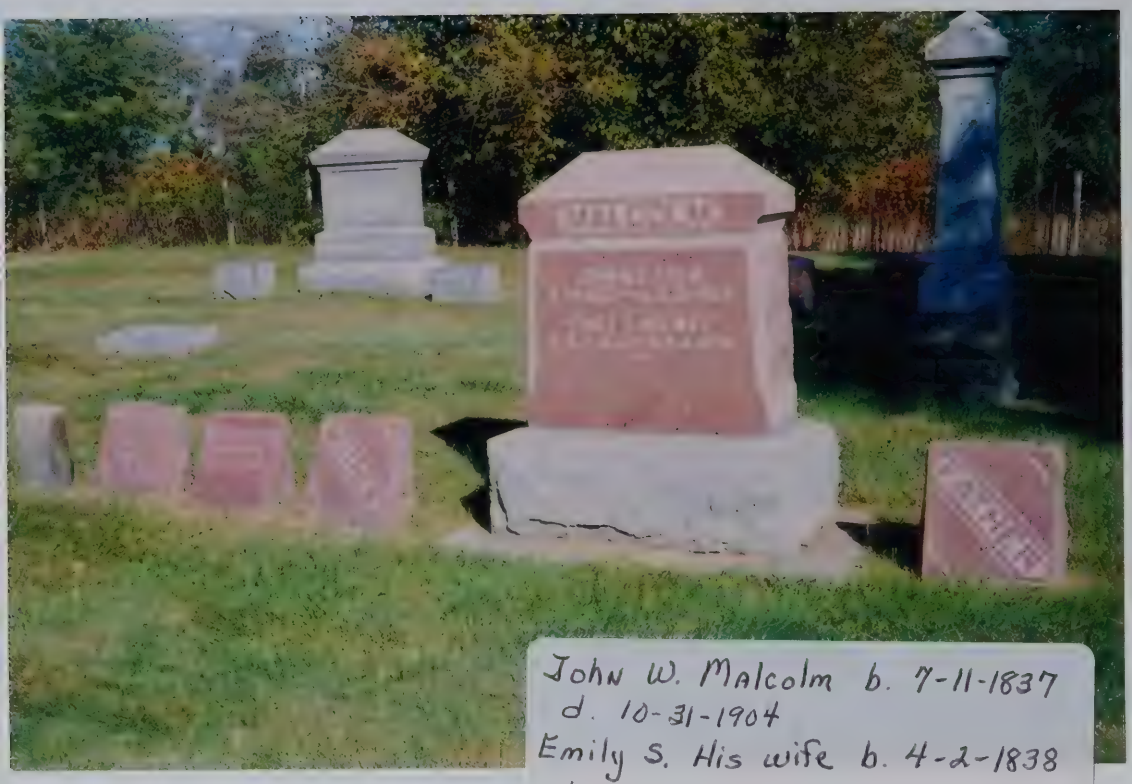


John G. Kell
died July 4, 1861
72 yr 1 mo 13 d
born about 1789

Might this be John George?
and
Magdelena?



Poss. Wife of John 1791 - 1876 or 75



John W. Malcolm b. 7-11-1837
d. 10-31-1904
Emily S. His wife b. 4-2-1838
d. 8-4-1896

Mary Malcolm
b. 10-4-1878
d. 2-4-1880

Maud Malcolm
b. 1-7-1872
d. 2-27-1872

Jennie L. Malcolm
b. 8-10-1869
d. 11-16-1876 /70 or 78

James W. Malcolm
1860-1951
Emma Elizabeth Preston
1856-1914







Jacob Kell 1818-1904
Catharine M. Kell 1828-1912

Edna V.
June 2, 1867 - Feb 1, 1873

John A
Nov 1, 1857 - Aug 4, 1875

M. Arthur March 18, 1862 - Aug 2, 1883

Jake says his grandfather Jacob came from France in the 1880's. However, we see Jacob + Catherine have 2 children buried here in the 1870's

Perry Township History says he came in 1843.





Perry Township, Allen Co.







George V. Kell 1846-1918

Alice Hatch, wife 1846-1906

FITCH BOOK III NATHANIEL AND SARAH
BEGINNINGS OF MATHIAS FAMILY

Nathaniel and sons

Larry and Perry photo .....look-a-likes

1970 Visit to the Nathaniel Fitch Homestead

Nathaniel stories by Parker, Strattons, Fairs, and others

Fitch Newsletter photos and stories

Nathaniel Fitch Homestead photos, recent and old

Park to Fitch.....West half of the homestead

Sarah and the Cow

Old Huntertown photo

Harvey's Huntertown house

George DeLong to Nathaniel Fitch.....Mathias's Land

Mathias Fitch Homestead photos, old and new

Young Mathias and Frances

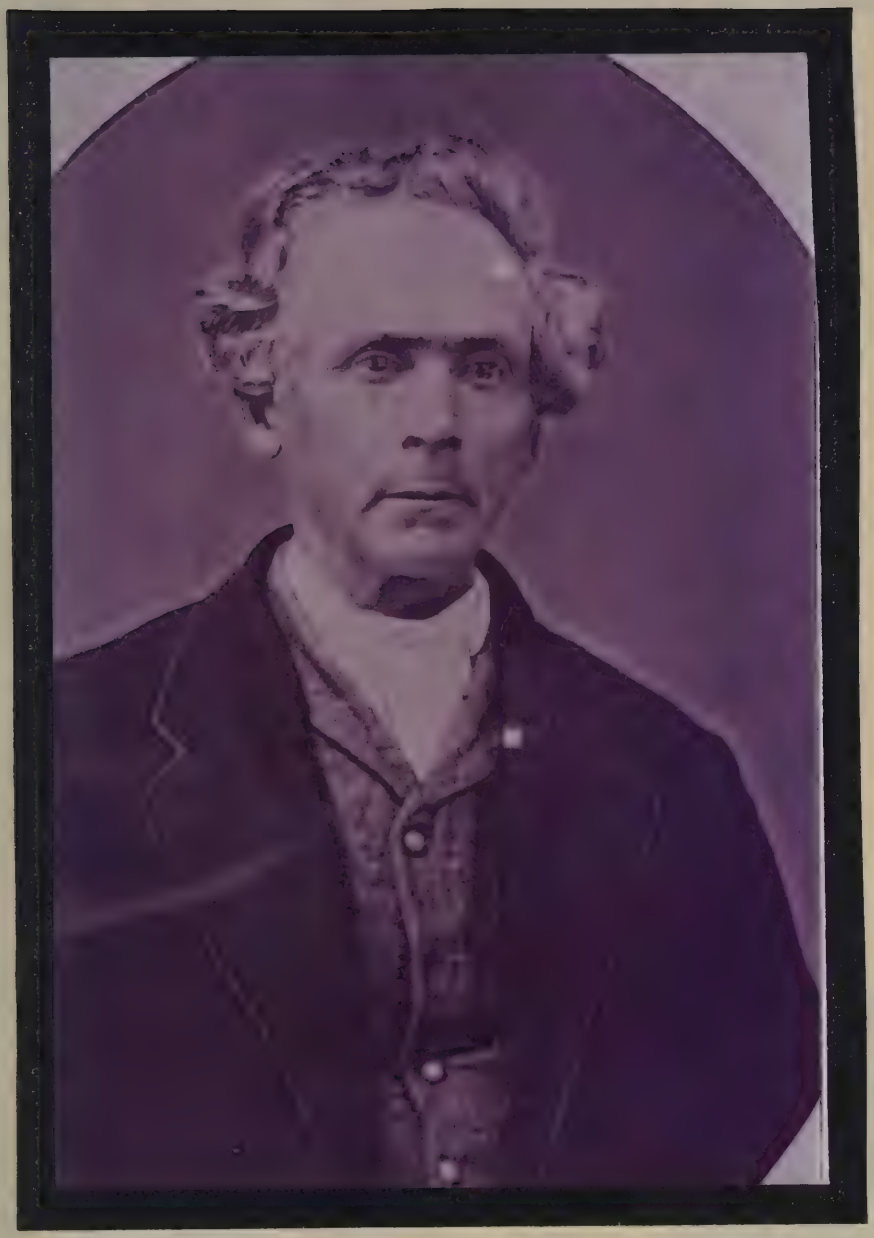
Photos, family, mill, Bible

Items found in the Mathias Fitch Bible, may have put there by Belle Fitch

Inside the house, photos by Ann Lyons

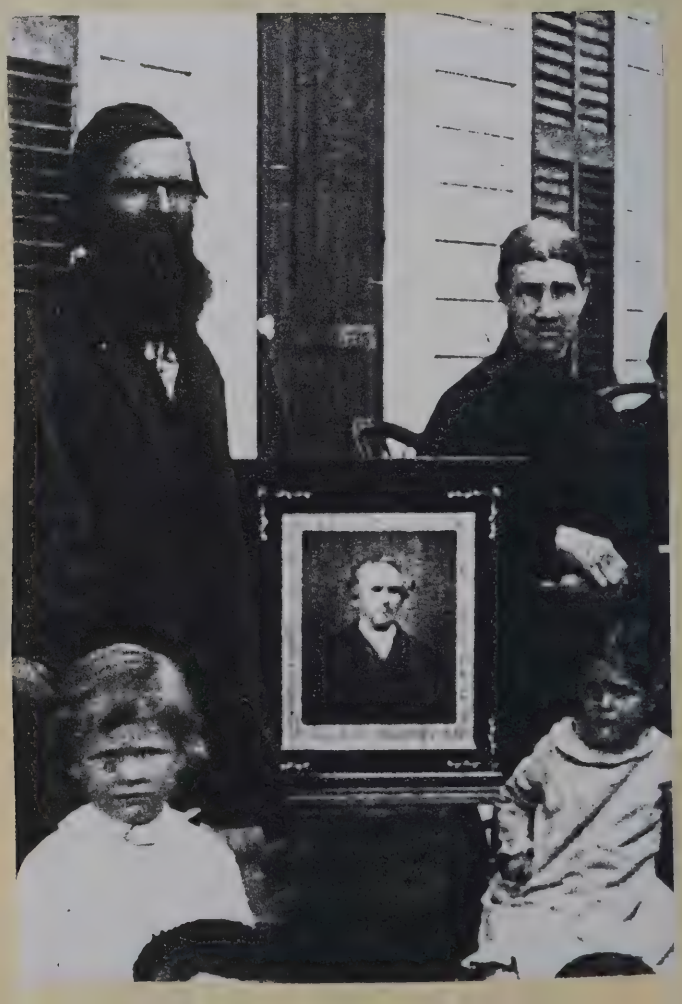
Mill stories, Fitch, Vandolah, Stoner

Perry's Home in DeKalb Co., IN











Look-a-Likes

Perry and LARRY



THE NATHANIEL FITCH HOMESTEAD – Perry Township, Allen County, IN

July 28, 1970 written by Betty Fitch

Larry and John (great-great-great grandsons of NATHANIEL FITCH) and I went to visit the "Old Homestead" of NATHANIEL FITCH this afternoon. It was a hot, steamy day.

The house is back a long lane which was in the past old highway 27. It is very impressive and in good condition for a house well over 100 years old. The architecture is of the Greek Revival period. It has been re-sided with shingles instead of the old clapboards which were on it originally. Also the shutters are gone and would add much to the appearance of the house as it stands today. It seems larger inside than I expected. The rooms are quite nice-sized. The woodwork in the house is original except for a few doors. The portico at the front door is as it was originally.

EARNEST's son, Bill, said that he was told that the house was built the year HARVEY, his grandfather, was born. That would be 1853. He wasn't sure of this but was what he had been told. The original cabin was supposed to have been in the garden, but the site of the garden had been changed so no one knows for sure.

The bath was just newly remodeled and we were told this was the room where Nathaniel did his weaving of cloth. The story goes that the women of the house were trying to bake an angel food cake for a special occasion and they had ruined two before they discovered that it was the banging of the loom which made the cakes fall. The weaving room was right next to the kitchen.

We were told that the whole end of the kitchen was a large fireplace but it had been completely torn down except for the remains that can be seen in the basement. The stones are still there but they have been whitewashed or painted.

We visited the basement and could see the old beams that support the house. They are large logs that were hewn to fit into each other, not really squared off but left nearly in their natural state except for the top where the flooring fits on them.

There was a very small bedroom just off the kitchen which was the grandmother's bedroom. In most old houses this was called the borning room where the mother and her newborn babies stayed because it was next to the fireplace and warmer than the other bedrooms.

The old corncrib is there and we thought this to be the blacksmith shop, until PARKER FITCH corrected us on that. Its foundation is piled stones. Its pegged beams and siding are probably the original. It was nailed on with square nails and is falling apart badly. Since the time we made this visit, in 1970, this building was torn down.....in the spring of 1973.

We were told that they cooked for 24 people every day in the house. Some must have been farm helpers or some kind of workers. Sue said she was told that the men, when they built the house, lived right with the family until it was done.

Also that Nathaniel would get up early in the morning and go hunting before the family was up. He might come back for breakfast and say he had a bear to bring back. Those must have been interesting days. One of his bear traps is in the Historical Museum in Fort Wayne.

Parker also said that he would challenge the boys to a race to town. Nathaniel would start off on foot and the boys would take horses and he would be waiting for them when they arrived. Sounds like a tall tale, but he was known for his walking skill.

Mrs. Earnest Fitch's son from California and his wife were there and also her daughter, Sue. They seemed to appreciate the fact that they live in such an historic home and although Mrs. Fitch was offered quite large sums of money for the home after the death of Ernest, she would not sell. Perhaps it will stay in the family.

The house also has the original floors although the ones upstairs have been refinished.

Two old cedar trees that may be found in some of the old photos of the family were hit by lightning and destroyed.

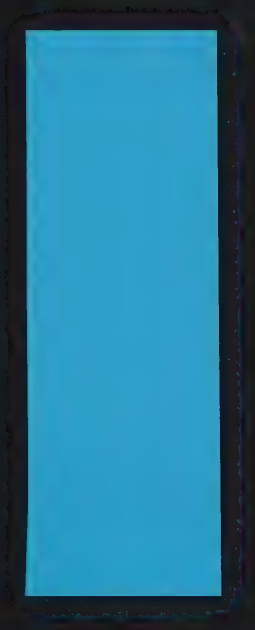
THE OLD HOMESTEAD ..... by John Fitch July 28, 1970

Today I visited the old homestead. It was in fairly good condition and so were the barn and yard. Mrs. Earnest Fitch and her son and daughter were present, and they showed us the beams in the basement. We looked at pictures of the house in the 1880's. The shingles have been replaced, the siding redone, and the shutters removed. The house was built in the early 1850's I believe.

We then looked at the old blacksmith's shop. (We were in error on the identity of that building) It is serving as a farm shed. We quickly noticed the pegged beams and the square nails. The shop once had a wood floor, but now it is dirt. Mrs. Fitch said that the shop may have been moved from its original location. This may be possible, because its foundation consists of some large rocks, which look very temporary.

When we asked about the location of the original cabin, they said they thought it was just north of the house overlooking the ridge. Mrs. Fitch's daughter said she remembers playing in the ruins of the cabin. She says it was in a bad state of decay. That would be in 1925 or 1930.

After taking pictures of these places, we left, hoping to come back again and learn more of the secrets of the old homestead of Nathaniel Fitch.





PARKER FITCH STORIES, grandson of Nathaniel

According to PARKER FITCH, Nathaniel died by having a log roll over him. Parker thought it might have happened at the saw mill. He apparently lived for a couple of weeks after the accident before he died. It rolled over his neck.

The doctor said Sarah just wore out. She had had a few sick spells but every time the doctor arrived she was O.K. It was possible they were mild heart attacks. She was sick and in bed only two weeks before she died. Until then she was up and able to do her work.

HARVEY and ETTA PARKER FITCH lived in the house down the hill from Sarah and Nathaniel's big house. Parker said his happiest days were spent there as a boy. This had been the real blacksmith shop of Nathaniel and then turned into a home. Parker and his wife and family also lived in this house for a time.

Once when Sarah was at Gloyds she got sick and had to stay awhile. Her daughters needed to go to her so they took the team that Parker had ready to go to a dance that night. He wasn't defeated though. Aunt Ida's prize horse was left behind so when it came time to go, he just took it. She never did find out about it or she would have surely crowned him! (This would have taken place in about July of 1903.)

Apparently Nathaniel was not one of the county's classiest dressers. One day he went to town in search of a new mill stone. The young man in the store didn't think much of his appearance and couldn't believe he could have any money to pay for it so he went back to check with his boss. He said, "There's a man out here who wants to buy a mill stone but he doesn't look like he's got $10.00 to his name." The owner looked and seeing it was Nathaniel said, "Sell him four or five if you can." They cost about $400 each. I suppose he got the stone he needed.

More stories as told to us July 1973:

One day Parker wanted John Fitch to go rabbit hunting with a ferret (a weasel-like animal used for hunting rabbits), but John said Parker would have to ask Belle for him. Well, Parker asked and Belle yelled at John -- "John Fitch, you wouldn't really go hunting and leave me with three small children, would you?" John didn't go.

One time Dr. Duemling of Fort Wayne did an operation on Belle, possibly an appendix removal and he owed him some money. He happened to have it with him in Huntertown one day when he saw the doctor go into the tavern. Now, John had probably never been in a tavern before in his whole life, but he followed him into the tavern to give him the money. The doctor didn't want to take the money because he was on his way up north and didn't want to carry it with him. He might lose it. But John persisted saying that HE might lose it and "you might as well lose it as me". John thought this was pretty funny.

Apparently neither John, Mathias, or Nathaniel were drinkers but not for religious reasons and they didn't hold it against someone who was. Parker doubted that Mathias ever went to church but John sometimes did if Belle wanted him to go. (But Carolyn Kell said that Mathias read his Bible every day of his life.....interesting how people see it differently)

One day Otis took some corn to the mill for Parker. He unloaded it without its being weighed. Otis was really worried about the mistake he made, but Parker knew the owner of the mill and about how much corn he had, so they got straightened out.

Sometimes when Sarah had a visitor she would receive boxes of candy. She would put it away on the shelf and when the boys, probably her grandchildren - Parker included, would come to visit her she would never get it out and offer them a piece, but when Mathias came, he would eat half a box full. Parker would often go sit and talk with her in the evening but she never brought out the candy.

Mathias did her bookkeeping for her.

Some of the boys farms produced well and they seemed to roll in money. Mathias, Amos, and Perry all had good farms. Harvey seemed to have nothing but clay knobs and a large family. He could hardly eke out a living. They lived in the house down over the hill from Sarah and Nathaniel's house. Parker said these were the happiest days of his life. Parker and his wife lived in that house later and also lived on the Kruse farm before moving to Avilla. (The Kruse farm is at the corner of Auburn Road and Union Chapel on the southwest corner.)

(Amazing but there seemed to be an attitude between Harvey and some of his brothers. Harvey's family was really not much larger than Mathias's and no larger than Perry's. He did have a larger family than Amos. But he actually lived on the same farm that Nathaniel turned into good money.....unless it was his blacksmithing that really brought in the money. Or the milling. Parker himself may have had some clay knobs up at Avilla though. He raised just 2 girls. They were a Catholic family. I can feel the attitude with his stories about John and Mathias. Perhaps there was some jealousy here.)

Parker said Nathaniel had a blacksmith shop at the sawmill too. Mathias got his water from a spring below the hill and never had a well. They carried it up in buckets. When he went to his farms in Iowa he always got an upset stomach because he couldn't stand the water. He went out about once a year. (Mathias did have a well. The pictures of their house show a windmill by the house, although they may have carried up their drinking water from a spring. That would be possible. I doubt the windmill would have been for a cistern. That is overkill.)

Amos also used spring water and had it piped to the house and barn. It finally went dry after the old folks were gone and Gladys was living in the house. She was told the story of the man who was going down the road with his 2 horses and one just laid down and died. He kept kicking it to get it up when another fellow came down the road. He looked at the horse and said, "Why are you kicking the horse? It's dead." The first fellow said, "Well, he never did that before." So when Gladys called to report the dry spring she just said, "the horse is dead" and they knew what she meant.

Then there was the day Parker was a John and Belle's and she started out of the house. She hobbled down the porch stairs and screamed hysterically. It was quite a few minutes later before she was able to tell him what was wrong. She had started out of the house and as she lifted up her foot to put it on the next step, a snake put his head up between a crack in the step. She couldn't stop so she went right on down the step, snake and all. John came and he and Parker moved the step and their were two blue racers under the step.

Parker said there weren't many rattlesnakes around here – only in the swamps occasionally. Mostly blue racers and garter snakes.

He said folks wondered why John married a cripple but they got along good.

Parker said that Otis was Belle's pet and she had a pet name for him, but he couldn't remember off hand what it was. ..... Guess we will never know now!!

THE STORIES OF MRS. EARNEST FITCH

Earnest Harvey Fitch, the youngest grandchild of Nathaniel Fitch, lived on the old homestead until he passed away in 1969 in California where he had gone to spend the winter. His widow still lives on the old homestead.

Their daughter, Suzanne, was the only one of their three children to be born in the old home.

The rest are a few of the stories member's of the family related to me .....

When the government opened up the land in Iowa, Nathaniel decided to go. He walked most of the way as men that went by were on horseback. The last day before he got to town where the land office was, a man came along in a buggy and gave him a lift. When they got to the town, the man invited Nathaniel to eat supper with him. Nathaniel turned him down. After eating, the man went to the land office. The clerk told him he had sold the last of the land to a Nathaniel Fitch. "He is that man standing across the street." The man remarked, "That is the man that rode in town with me. I thought he was a wanderer. I offered to buy his supper. He didn't look like he had a dime."

Father, Harvey Fitch, said that he was a baby when they moved in the new house.

There were deer, wild turkeys, and peacocks in the woods. There were times when they had seven hired hands to help do the work. Harvey said " We didn't have a variety of food, but had plenty of it.....meat, potatoes, and bread. If we had anything sweet it was maple syrup or sorghum molasses. Mother did all the cooking in the fireplace.

From Harvey: At that time where the dining room, bathroom, and half of the kitchen is now, was one big room with a fireplace where the back door is now. Nathaniel had a loom on the west side where he did all the weaving for their wool clothes.

A cobbler would come and stay until he made leather boots for all the men folks. Father said if you got them wet you had to wear them til they were dry or you couldn't get them on again.

When his father, Nathaniel, came home for a short visit while working on the canal, if the creek was running full, he would put his money belt under a big rock and swim across. Some time later if he ran out of money, he would go and get his money belt.

Father, Harvey, said one time a big log rolled over his father and he was never so well after that. The family thought it shortened his life.

STORIES, MORE

From Bess Kell:

Grandmother, Sarah Fitch, was very critical with her family but she had a mischievious side too. One time when Bess was here, two of the daughters came for a visit. Grandmother invited Bess to go on the train to do some shopping in Fort Wayne with her. They had to walk from the farm to the railroad track, where the train would stop for them. On their way walking home Grandmother said, "Let's rest awhile." Before starting on, Grandmother took her drawers off, tied knots in each leg and put their packages in the legs and then put it over her shoulder and remarked, "Let's hear what the girls will have to say!"

From Nate McComb:

This is a story he told Earnest about his Grandfather Fitch. Nathaniel went in a farm store in Fort Wayne and a young clerk asked him, "What can I do for you?" Nathaniel said "I want a millstone." The clerk went to the back room where the proprietor was and said, "There is a man out there that wants a mill stone. They cost $400 and he looks like he couldn't afford one!" The proprietor came to the door to see who it was. He told the clerk, "That is Nathaniel Fitch. Sell him five of them if you can. He is a big land owner north of here."

THE FITCH MILL

Taken from the booklet "Old Fort News" of February 1942....."The Water-Powered Mills of Allen County, Indiana" by Roy M. Bates and the Allen Co.-Fort Wayne Historical Society. (Cost of the booklet was 5 cents in 1942 and contained all of the mills of Allen Co.)

This mill and the Manning Mill at Hamilton (Leo) both began operations in the year 1840 and quit business in 1908, a record of 68 years of continuous operation, being exceeded only by Stoner's Mill, which operated continuously for 76 years, the latter holding the record for the county.

HARRY FAIR (Henry Fair) erected a carding mill on Little Cedar Creek in 1840. Little Cedar is a tributary of Big Cedar Creek, and the waters of the two streams merge in Perry Township about three quarters of a mile south of the DeKalb County line. The mill stood on the left bank of the stream, a short distance above its mouth, in the northeast quarter of Section 4.

The dam, about 65 feet in length and 4 feet in height, was situated in DeKalb County, about one mile upstream from the mill. The mill race serving this mill was the longest of any of the county.

The building was two stories in height and 40 x 20 feet in size. It was powered by an over-shot wheel. The mill was moved downstream and the race lengthened, after trouble developed with the water supply. Shortly after the mill was built, it was purchased by NATHANIEL FITCH, who erected a saw mill adjacent to the carding mill.

The saw mill was a one-story building, 60 x 20 feet. Its equipment consisted of an upright saw, which was later replaced by a circular saw, and a 6-foot turbine wheel which remains on the site today.

The carding mill was abandoned about 1869 or 1870 and the saw mill was afterward operated by MATHIAS FITCH, son of NATHANIEL, who installed a feed-grinder and continued the mill's operation until its abandonment in 1908. The carding mill building is now serving as a stock barn on the farm of JOHN FITCH, who has given us the above information. A portion of the saw mill fell down and the remainder was dismantled.

THE PERRY FITCH HOMESTEAD

FORREST FITCH, grandson of PERRY FITCH, sent these notes about his grandfather's house.

"The Perry Fitch Homestead" - the records were destroyed by fire at the Auburn Courthouse.

At the request of the president, IVAN FITCH, I looked into the matter regarding the age, width and length and the remodeling of the homestead after it was sold. Remodeling was done by C. P. Fitch, who bought the place in and about the year of 1914 and 1915.

The length is 204 feet, and the width is 117 feet. The age of the homestead, as near as I can find, would be between 110 and 114 years old; that would be if Grandfather built the house the first year they were married, 1864.

The new people have remodeled the old place; it looks like a palace. They bought it this year, 1973. I invited them to the reunion. Their name is Mr. and Mrs. Ducharm.

THE AMOS FITCH HOME

The Amos Fitch home was built in 1878. The wood house in connection with the main part of the house was built first and they lived in that until the other part of the nine room house was finished. The attic above was their bedroom and they used a ladder to get up to it. It cost $100 to lay up the brick for the house. (A later writing tells that the bricks were all handmade and done locally.)

We used oil lamps until our father heard of acetylene gas plants and being used for lighting homes and he had one installed in our basement. It was there for several years until we heard of a plant exploding and then he made a place for it out in the orchard, bricked it up, and moved the plant out there.

We always had drinking water in the house. There was a spring out west of the house, on a hillside in the woods. Father put in a hydraulic ram a short distance below the spring and it pumped the water, piped from the spring up to the house and into a tank that was in a closet upstairs. Just below the tank in the dining room was a small marble basin with a spigot and that was where we got our drinking water.

Later on and I haven't the date, and how I wish I had, our father bought a Delco lighting plant and we had electric lights. The plant was located in the wood house and it had to be run every day or so to recharge the batteries.

In 1939 we got the electric lights from the REMC.

This report was made by MARIE HOUSER, daughter of AMOS FITCH.

(In the year 2007 this is one of the few original Fitch homes that are still in the hands of the family. The home is on County Line Road and in DeKalb County, IN.)

THE (2) PERRY FITCH HOMESTEAD - PART 2

Just want to add a little to the story of the Perry Fitch house. About 1962 we were looking for a new place to live. We had been living in Avilla, sold our business, and our house, and time was running short on how much time we had left in that place. We had to find another place to live.

We had no idea that it was a Fitch home, but was just off Road 68 and that seemed a good location for us and my dream was always an old brick house to fix up. What a dream! Well we went to look at it and decided that we would make that move. Next day or so we spent almost a whole day there cleaning and getting ready to move in. It all fell through when someone told us that it cost over $600 to heat the place. That was a deal breaker for us at that time. So we had one lovely day in that place.

I remember that the stairway went up through the center of the house and upstairs was a wide hallway railing. It would have been lovely I am sure. The ceilings were probably about 10 foot high. There were great covered porches, old buildings and sand. There seemed to be a gravel pit or something on the property also. We did not have time to look at all of the outbuildings, but we cleaned, washed windows, scrubbed floors and in general got ready to make the move.

I often wished, afterward, we had been able to do it. However, we probably could not have afforded to buy the place at that time, nor pay the rent and heat bills, but would have given us plenty of decorating room. But it was my dream anyway and not Warren's. It didn't really matter to him much what kind of house we lived in. It was long afterward that we found out it was a Fitch home. But we had a day of hard work and got to see the inside of this home with it's lovely woodwork. I do not remember that there were fireplaces that could be seen, but there might have been and the stairway was closed in, not open, except for the upstairs hallway and that was open. I don't think that the Fitch family built homes that were fancy with a lot of fancy things.....just solid and pretty big to accommodate their growing families. There may have been fireplaces in the beginning. A visit to the folks living there now might answer that question.

It would have been a challenge, but eventually we rented another old farm house at LaOtto; then purchased our 10 acres on Old Auburn Road and built our own home. But my thoughts always turn to "what if".....

THE STRATTON FAMILY .....written by Marguerite Stratton Nobles

Any stories about the STRATTON family for the most part has to be about SARAH ELIZABETH (FITCH) STRATTON. She was born 10th in the family of NATHANIEL and SARAH ELIZABETH FITCH and was the first child born in the new house or Homestead House. She went to the Fitch School and must have spent some time at the Seminary, for she recalled one of her big brothers putting her on the rail fence to watch the Troops marching from Coldwater with fife and drum and supply wagons to entrain at Fort Wayne. At some time she must have spent some time at Valpariso University and at Hillsdale, Michigan.

Among the many stories told about her parents, I think of the one about the cholera plague that swept the early settlements. Grandmother and Grandfather went nightly to help the sick and dying. They changed clothes down by the creek, and she went to nurse and he to make coffins. In the morning they would bathe in the cold creek and put on the clothing they had left there before returning to their families. I have heard this directly from Grandmother. She always had her own riding horse she said.

When her sister Jane was at Wabash in 1875 or 1876, Sarah Elizabeth went to Wabash to go to school and help Jane with her children and her house. At Wabash she met a young man, IRVING FRANKLIN STRATTON, who was reading law with his brother-in-law, ALVAH TAYLOR. Later Stratton, with his brother, JEROME, set up a law practice at Fort Wayne. He later won a Judgeship in Allen County. He often went to see Sarah Elizabeth during those years. She taught school in several townships and JEROME GLOYD was always urging her to take a school that had bad discipline problems. One summer at home she recalled helping with the building of the AMOS FITCH house. She and her Mother cooked for the workers and she drove a wagon over there each day with their noon dinner. She and IDAH both taught at country schools. Idah was a graduate of Fort Wayne College and also taught at New Haven where she met MELVILLE MASON, who later graduated from Michigan Dentistry College.

Mother and Father were married at a double wedding with sister EMMA and ALLEN HARTZELL, December 28, 1881. She said that she wore a plum colored velvet with a white bonnet with seed pearls. Sister FIE was a beautiful seamstress and had taught her to sew. I think that velvet gown later became a suit for little LEANDER.

The folks build a house at Fort Wayne on Washington Avenue, near Broadway, and friends of sisters now own that property. Father was always most interested in horses and especially the trotters. There were always races at fairs and the track was used at Sweeney Park. I think Mother was a little more conservative and did not care too much about money spent for such horses. Father was having problems with his brother who liked his bottle a little too much. It was not good for a judge to be trying to help out with him, so the folks sold out and went to Wichita where Father had relatives and Mother had friends. Mother was closer to AUNT FRANK and I recall many trips to Alden and visits from the Fair family.

A home was built there and my early years were at that house. The barn and carriage house were built before the main house and HAROLD was born in the barn where the family had set up housekeeping until the main house was completed. This was 1888. My memories of the house are of a large garden on one side with three beautiful apricot trees next to the house. On the other side past the drive was the peach orchard and strawberry beds. Kansas was prairie and the back yard was bare and wind swept. Plenty of wind too. I remember seeing a whole line of clothes blown away. That area of Wichita was College Hill and the folks were there during the Boom and Bust years. I think the folks finally lost a lot

of money there. Mother said that when Oklahoma Territory was opened up she wanted to go and try for land and Father had been asked to go for they said he could eventually be Governor because of his legal training; he was then a judge in Wichita.

The fever to move West was across the land, and Father wanted to go to California. Some of his family had already gone on there and were urging him to come too. A railway car was used, and the stock, and the two race horses, and the household goods they wanted, with Leander and Father went on West to San Bernadino. In a few days a telegram came that Father had been killed. He was exercising one of the horses with the sulkey and was hit by an electric train. The horse was destroyed, and Father only lived a few hours. Father had been crippled in early years by a horse, and that might have had something to do with his not controlling the horse. Aunt Idah came, and got us to go back to Fort Wayne. Mother always felt that she should have gone on to California; that she could have won a lawsuit there with the Rail Company. And that was the end of our Kansas years.

We lived at Lakeside in Fort Wayne from the spring of 1902 until 1909. Those were good years in some ways and in others very difficult for Mother. She did anything to make a home and keep her family together. For the first year we lived with the Masons but that was no good for either family. Mother finally built a house on the Loree side of the property that Aunt Idah owned and we made that our home for the next years. Mother did the washing for the dental office and took care of Idah's house. She cared for some elderly woman and made a home for them. I recall that DELLA GLOYD lived with us a good many years until she was too ill to work. AUDREY FITCH spent some time with us too until she was married.

LEANDER had a very serious illness while there. The second time he had Rheumatic Fever and we nearly lost him. He always wanted to go back West and he did go and spent some time at the Fairs where he was very happy. HAROLD had to drop out of school to help out and he worked as a call boy for the railroad and later was with a car tracing company for several years. That work took him to Milwaukee and he was determined to have more education. So the next we knew, he was in Colorado working his way to go to a Prep School to take up mining.

I went to Lakeside School and Clay Street School and Helen only had one year of high school left when we left Fort Wayne. I loved the times we got to go to the country and Mother took we two girls and spent several summers with Grandmother. I remember reunions at that home under the big walnut tree in the yard, several at Ame's home, Mathias, Gloyds and even the Hartzell home at New Haven. Mother always went to help with harvesting times with her various sisters and I remember a "barn-raising" at the Gloyds. Those were good years to remember.

The two boys in the family wound up at the Steel Mill at the then new Gary, Indiana, and we decided to go there and make a home and help them as well as ourselves. We had really been too close to Aunt Idah and under her dominance too long and Mother felt she could and would do better on her own.

I loved the years that I went to high school; it was a new school, a new system, and such an adventure. Helen graduated there head of her class; Harold jammed a lot of courses into one year and was able to enter Purdue University. I did not do so well grade-wise, but as I used to tell Mother, I passed!! Mother build a large house there for there were many young men to room and board that worked in the several plants and mills. She worked very hard but she was a wonderful manager and we always had good food and money to do the things that

the other school children did and had. Strat and I have always been so glad that in her later years we were able to pay her back for all of that.

LEANDER and HELEN both married while there at Gary and they had families and their own lives to work for. Leander's wife was ill and he wanted to go West after her death. Helen and Claude had many moves, Hammond, Lafayette, Cincinnati and finally back to Fort Wayne.

I got two years of College at an expression school in Chicago, lived at home, and commuted each day. I have always been a voracious reader and although music could have been my best love we did not have money enough for that expensive education. So speech was the next best thing and school teaching. I did not do too badly at that.

Mother and I have always been proud of the things that Harold (we call him Strat) has been able to do with his life. From Purdue he wound up in the Isaac Johnson Foundry in New York and was soon the plant superintendent there. In World War I the German Liner Leviathan had been impounded in New York Harbor and the Germans wrecked the engines. Strat took his pattern makers from the plant and they rebuilt all of that and the liner was used as a troop ship the rest of the war. He was with Johnsons until the Harlem Ship Canal was put across the Foundry site and the plant was closed up. The then spent 8 years at McKeesport, PA., with a foundry there. He knew of a foundry at Parkersburg, West Virginia, that was not making a go of it and he and a man from Parkersburg were urged by the banks to take it over. They bought into it on the steps of the Court House and it has been Mountain State Steel Foundry since 1928. And it has been all his know-how and push that has done it. I think he is a throw-back to his Grandfather Fitch. When he gets to pushing a little too much, I tell him his Fitch is showing.

Leander got Mother and me to move with him to Montana. He has remained there ever since and has done his beloved ranching and lived a pretty good life, and raised a nice family. I taught at a country school and then went in the County Superintendent's office. A young man from the War in Europe was a teacher in the high school and we were quite attracted to each other. We were married at Urbana, Illinois, and taught one year in Illinois. We then went to Champaign for him to finish his degrees. Mother was with us at that time and from there we went to Virginia, at V.P.I. CLARENCE became ill there and the War had caught up with the young Lieutenant. We had only 8 years together and I had a young man to raise. Mother was like a brick wall at my back and said you do not stop here. We went to Peabody, at Nashville and I got my degree there and then we were going to go with Strat to make our home. I to teach, I thought, but I wound up in the Foundry too and loved it.

And so the English teacher would up as Office Manager of a Steel Foundry. Strat has never married. He had met a girl in New York and they had planned to marry and she died very suddenly, and no other girl came along to take that place. He wanted me to come to Parkersburg and we would both make a home for Mother and ourselves and my son. I had no office experience but with the help of auditors I did a good job on books and hanging onto money. Strat and I look back on the years at Parkersburg as a very good time of our lives. We built a home there and as far as Mother was concerned, she was always the head of the house. I made Strat work until he was 72 so that I could retire at 65. We played a lot of golf and did some traveling.

My son Bob had always had trouble with asthma so we decided to send him to a private school in Asheville. It was fine for his health and for his education. He finished there and after that did two degrees at M.I.T. As an Aeronautical Engineer we almost lost him. He was on the Flying Boat, the Mars, that the test pilot crashed and broke up in Chesapeake

Bay. Bob was rescued and came through with a minor concussion. He later worked at Convair in Texas and after a time there decided that if we expected him to help out at the Foundry he had better come there while Strat was still there. He is now Vice-president and Manager there and is doing a job that we are very proud of.

We had made several trips to Florida and decided that might be the place we would like to retire, for Strat never would have left work if he had stayed near the shop. We liked it here at Fort Lauderdale and saw this smaller village develop just north of the big city. We built on a canal here and Mother said she had never thought she would get to build another home. She lived 10 years with winter stays here in Florida. We built in 1948 and came to stay in 1960 for year-round living.

We got to make two trips to Europe which we both enjoyed very much. One was to all of the capitals of Eastern Europe and we liked a good tour of England. We both have a few minor health problems but we are on our feet and doing pretty well we think. We do not drive anymore but an Essie Mae who helps us out a few days a week can drive and thus helps us out on errands. We exercise in the pool every day the sun is out and that is good for aches and pains we might have thought up.

July 4, 1974 at Lauderdale By the Sea .....Marguerite Stratton Nobles

FRANCELIA FITCH AND CHRISTIAN NORMAN FAIR

As written by Sara Sleeper, granddaughter of Francelia

This morning Mrs. CHRIS FAIR handed me a picture of the "Fair home place" taken a few years ago, but it looks the same as I remember it without the siding. This is a picture of the front of the house. There has been remodeling in the interior and many years ago a kitchen and another bedroom upstairs was added on to the east side of the house.

FRANCELIA and CHRISTIAN NORMAN FAIR moved into this house a few years after they came to Kansas on the train. The place where they lived directly after they left Indiana is about 6 miles west of Alden and about the same number of miles from their later home.

VALETTA, their daughter and oldest child, was born in Indiana. My father, JAMES HENRY, was born west of Alden in more of a dugout house rather than a sod house; and EDWARD FAIR (one of the triplets) was born after they moved a mile and a quarter south of Alden. Ed fair was the only one of the triplets that lived.

The January day my father, JAMES HENRY FAIR, was born, his father had to go after the doctor in a blizzard. I remember that one time Francelia Fair said an Indian wanted either a chicken or cow and she chased him away with a stove poker. Seems like once the Indians did take one of their cows.

At the time C.N. and Francelia Fair came to Kansas on the Santa Fe Railroad, this was as far as the rails were laid. He would spend his winter days helping to lay rails on west for extra money. One story that stayed with me was that my grandfather walked 6 miles to Sterling for a 100 lb sack of flour down the rail tracks and carried it back on his back. Valletta cried for white flour bread since all they had to make bread was the whole wheat ground.

My father wouldn't talk about his early days. He said "I wouldn't give a nickel for the first 15 years of my life."

With money received from Francelia's family and with much hard work and saving, Grandfather expanded his cattle operation and farming, bought additional land in the area, and became the 1st president of the bank in Alden tho' he was never active in it. My father, Jim Fair, began working in it and ran it until his health failed in the 40's.

Edward Fair married Ruie Vincent and they lived on the home place. Francelia and C.N. Fair would live with one of the children part time and spent some winters in California. At present, Edward's grandson, Ed Fair, lives in the homeplace and farms in the area. He has 3 lovely daughters. His wife lived in the community and taught in the Home Economics Department in the Alden High School.

My mother has often said it was the financial help from Indiana that was the turning point for better days for Francelia and C.N. Fair. I believe it might have been an inheritance.

Edward J. Baker and
Phebe Anne Baker,
his wife,

To

Nathaniel Fitch.

) WARRANTY DEED. $2800.00

) Dated: February 16, 1864

) Recorded: July 30, 1864

) RECORD OF DEEDS, DeKalb County,

) Indiana, Vol. "P", Page 380.

The said Grantors CONVEY AND WARRANT to the said Grantee the following described Real Estate situated in DeKalb County, State of Indiana, to-wit:

The South west quarter of the North West quarter (and other real estate) of Section No. Thirty five (35) in Township No. Thirty Three (33) North of Range twelve East containing Eighty acres more or less.

Signed and Sealed:

Edward J. Baker
Phebe A. Baker

Acknowledged by Edward J. Baker and Phebe Anne Baker on the 16th. day of February, 1864, before W. Goreell, a Justice of the Peace in and for DeKalb County, State of Indiana.

(SEAL)

2 Battleview Cir.
Lexington, MA 02173
September 8, 1994

Dear Betty,

My first Fitch reunion may have been in the late '50's, I can date it by my hair-do, as a young person I was thrilled to have fun with my found cousins. I remember meeting an older woman named Aunt Estell, thinking she was one of the ancient ones. Having grown up with a grandmother who told me stories about the Fitches and the Fairs living in Indiana, then coming to Kansas as pioneers created that link to the past that was one of her greatest gifts to me. Of course she was an early child of pioneers herself experiencing all the joys and hardships that followed such a life far from family having to create a new life out of nothing and everything.

Fortunately as a college student I went through many of the photos that my grandmother had in suitcases asking her who this was, where this was which all lead to more stories. The last couple of years I have gone back over these photos separating out her family from the Fairs and the Fithces. I had quite a pile of unknowns, I didn't get to all those suitcases years ago. This past reunion gave me the opportunity to have people identify some of these mystery pictures. It was a good way to get to know people. Now I know Bill Fitch, Phyllis and her girls, the David Fitch family and many more. A big treat was going to Amos Fitch's house and seeing it so wonderfully maintained.

All the information that you have sent has been much read over and talked about with my friends and family. So many interesting connections between the Fairs and the Fitches. I found these pictures of three Fair Family Reuions when C.N. Fair was a handsome youngish man. They are stamped with an Ohio location. I have been puzzled about this location for some time and now you have solved that for me. He was named after his mother whose last name I've been told was Nauman or something like that, it was Americanized to Norman, hence Christian Norman Fair.

The stories that Abraham tells remind me of my grandfather, J. H. Fair, who was a real kidder himself. He was always making some joke that was on the dry side and sometimes at another person's

Dear Betty

Glad to hear from a young person I was thrilled to have the with my friend Cousins I remember meeting an older woman named Aunt Estell Sterling who was one of the ancient ones Having grown to woin a grandmother who told me stories about the Indians and the course she was an early child of pioneers herself experiencing all the joys and hardships that followed such a life for them family having to create a new life out of nothing and everything

Fortunately as a college student I went through many of the photos that my grandmother has in scrapbooks dating her whole life was, where this was which all lead to many stories The last couple of years I have gone back over those photos separating out her unknowns I didn't get to all those ambiguous years ago This past reunion gave me the opportunity to have people identify some of those unknowns Though I still have a few left now I know but I only the Ellis are my girls, the Davis twins and many more A big treat was going to Aunt Ella's home and seeing it so wonderfully maintained

Conversations between the Fairs and the Flowers I found these pictures of these Fair Family Reunions (CN Fair was a handsome youngish man They are shrouded with an Olde Country I have been puzzled about this location for some time and now you have solved one for me He was named after his mother whose last name I've been told was Noonan or something like that, it was Americanized to Noonan hence Christian Norman Fair

The stories that Abraham tells remind me of my grandfather

expense but he was always quick wit. C. N., mother says had blue eyes and fair hair, unlike the dark Fitches.

Roy Fair of Spokane, Wash. has some information about the Fairs in particular Henry. He died in Nebraska along with a number of other people on the wagon train on his way west to prospect for gold. I'm hoping for more information from Roy and will pass it along to you.

C.N.'s brother

Did you know that Gabriel Fair killed a neighbor in a fight. The man was throwing debris onto the Fair property, Gabriel picked up a branch and hit him. He was acquitted. I wonder if it wasn't after this tragedy that the Fairs and a Ross headed as far west as the train ~~w~~ could carry them? Raymond, Kansas, a town they called Hell Town in those early days. Mom doesn't know if C.N. came out first and fixed up a home for Frank, which was a dug out, or if they all came out together. One of the Fair sisters married a Ross, they settled in Alden, the others kept going west. Gabriel might have been with them as well as another brother, I don't know. Grandma did tell me this story about a baby being wrapped to tightly one cold night and he/she suffocated. There is a tiny tombstone in Alden.

Sarah Fair Ross

I have lots of great stories about C.N. My favorite is the time his daughter, Valley, was complaining about eating cornmeal. She wanted something made with white flour. C.N. walked along the railroad track to Sterling, 2-3 miles away, to get her the flour. He then carried 50 lbs. back to Alden. I love fried cornmeal mush, a food of the pioneers on prairie.

There are Fitches here too. My lawyer is a Fitch, but not ~~our~~ one of us. Enclosed is an article by John Fitch about one of our ancestors. His books I would like to get someday.

You've been wonderful and so kind to send this information. I cherish it. It is so amazing to know that you are living on the Fair/Fitch land. I do like seeing that one of my great-great grandmothers could write her name, I have found another who couldn't. I liked the reunion in that hall, it seemed just right, cozy and everyone was friendly. Thanks for all your work done with such love and care.

or will own

Yours,

Barbara Fitch

STORIES OF DAVID NATHANIEL FITCH

From Helen Fitch Hawver
348 Pasadena Drive
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Descended from David Nathaniel Fitch, the 15th child of Sarah and Nathaniel Fitch.

David Nathaniel, my father, was the youngest of the 15 children of Sarah and Nathaniel Fitch. David Nathaniel was brought up in the Fitch home in Allen County. He attended schools in the county and in Fort Wayne. David wanted to become an animal doctor. With his Fitch determination, he succeeded. He graduated from the Chicago Veterinary College and became a Veterinary Surgeon. He practiced for many, many years in Auburn and in the surrounding rural areas.

He married Emma Belle Stirlen in 1887. They lived their entire married life in Auburn – a very happy time. They were determined that their three children would become college graduates and they did that very thing. The two sons graduated from Purdue University and their daughter was a graduate of Western College for Women, Oxford, Ohio.

Nathaniel & Sarah DeLong Fitch

Family Reunion Newsletter

Fall 1993

Why a Fitch Newsletter?

If you receive this newsletter, you are directly related, by birth, adoption or marriage, to Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch of Perry Township, Indiana (just north of Fort Wayne). Married in 1840, they had 15 children between 1842 and 1865. 13 of these children lived to adulthood, and 10 had children. Today there are more than 950 living descendants of Nathaniel and Sarah.

Among the first few generations there was a very strong bond of kinship. Almost annual family reunions were formally organized in 1902, bringing Nathaniel's children, grandchildren and great-grand children to Indiana from around the country each July 4th. Informal reunions are documented as early as 1884.

In 1972 a Fitch committee led by Carolyn Davis compiled and published a marvelous 85-page book of family photos, history and lineage. In 1982 the families's vital records were updated.

As the earlier generations passed away and the distances, both generational and physical, between Nathaniel's descendants grew, participation in the annual reunions waned. While there was a local Fort Wayne Reunion in 1992, the last annual Fitch Reunion was in 1986.

By 1992 many of Nathaniel's descendants knew little or nothing about their 19th century Indiana roots or the 100 years of Fitch Reunions. Those who do remember the people and stories of those early days are, for the most part, in their 80's and 90's.

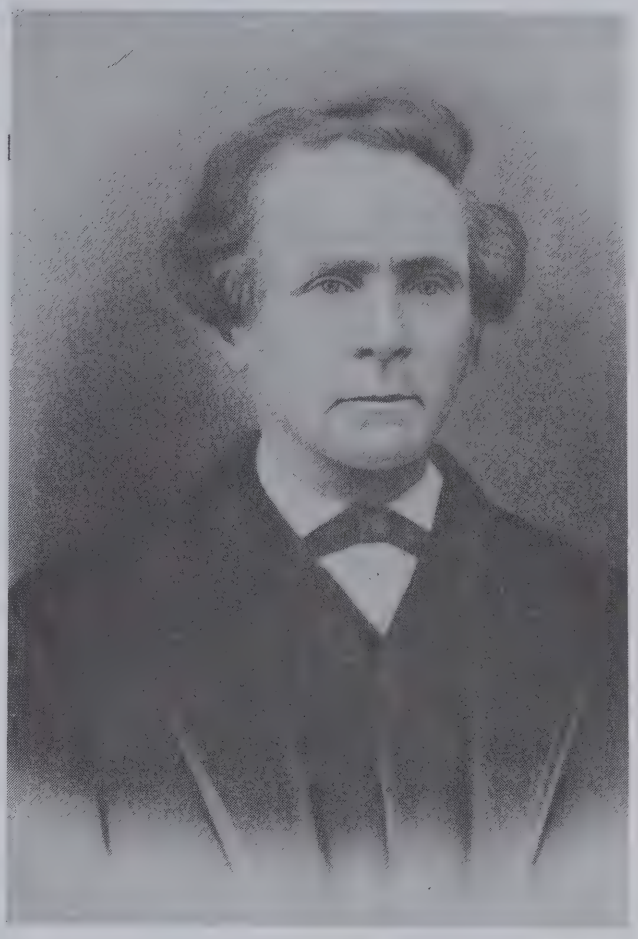
With much of our early family history on the verge of being lost, it was decided at the 1992 Reunion to collect and publish old family stories and photos and to distribute them to every descendant family and adult with a unique address. It is hoped that newsletter recipients will pass along copies of the newsletters to their minor children when they reach adulthood.

While the newsletters may perpetuate the memories of loved ones, now gone, and help maintain links between otherwise distant cousins, they are designed as family historical references.

Newsletter - Pg 2

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Since our 1992 mailing list was out-of-date and many cousins did not receive last year's newsletter, its stories and photos are included in this newsletter.



Nathaniel Fitch
"The Jennie portrait"

Sarah & Nathaniel portraits found and now available

During the 1870's Shoaff Photographers of Fort Wayne took at least two portrait photographs of Sarah and at least one of Nathaniel. The family historian has had one pair of those portraits since they were presented to the Family by Margie Beers Ozanne, a daughter of Jennie Fitch Beers. (The Jennie portraits)

A second, slightly different portrait of Nathaniel was known to have existed, as it appears in an 1884 Reunion photograph, but its whereabouts was unknown until recently.

When Betty Fitch provided a list of Fitch items in the Allen County/Fort Wayne Historical Museum, it was noted that it included a pair of portraits given by

Portraits - Pg 3

Help Us Identify Our Kin

Many of our older photos are without identification. Elaine Kirbach and Carolyn Davis have been able to identify some, but many faces remain unknown.

If you recognize anyone in our photos who is not identified in a caption, please let the family historian know, so that our family photo albums will be as complete as possible.

Now Available: Address Lists and Vital Records

If you would like an up-to-date copy of your family's vital records and addresses (e.g. Perry and all his descendants), please send a stamped (29 cents), self-addressed business-sized envelope to the family historian, noting which family list you want. (e.g. Mathias)

For more than one family or all the families' lists, please send your request and $5.00 to cover copying and mailing. (Any "profit" from the mailings will go toward the cost of publishing the newsletters.)

- Newsletter from Pg 1 -

It is generally recognized that most people reach a point in their lives when they are curious about their roots. Perhaps intuitively we know that who we have become is somehow, perhaps genetically but certainly experientially, related to the generations that preceded us.

Or perhaps it is just plain curiosity. In any case, the newsletter should provide some insights and answers about our Fitch family that might otherwise be unavailable.

PLEASE WRITE !!!

[OR CALL]

YOUR FAMILY HISTORIAN NEEDS YOUR HELP TO KEEP OUR RECORDS UP-TO-DATE.

Bill Cassell
9 Independence Avenue
Lexington MA 02173

617-862-6172

Sample of Address and Vital Record Lists

Name	Street Address	City State ZIP	Birthdate	Birth Place	Marriage	Date of Death
Amos Fitch	- - -		6/11/1849	Perry Twnshp IN		11/ 9/1935
& Nancy E. Hunter	- - -		1/22/1849	Perry Twnshp IN	11/27/1878	6/ 1/1930
Gladys Fitch	- - -		10/15/1881	Butler Twnsph IN		10/30/1962
Rolland H. Fitch	- - -		9/12/1884	Butler Twnshp IN		6/ 3/1959
& Margaret H. Gutermuth	- - -		10/11/1890	Fort Wayne IN	11/27/1930	5/21/1943
Marie E. Fitch	- - -		6/29/1891	Butler Twnshp IN		11/20/1984
& Arthur G. Houser	- - -		10/31/1880	Butler Twnshp IN	10/26/1916	5/26/1955
Richard Houser	355 Woodcrest Ln	Xenia OH 43585	5/ 4/1918	Garrett IN		
& Lois J. Hyler	-do-		1/18/1921	Willard OH	8/16/1941	
Steven R. Houser	84 Hardacre Dr.	Xenia OH 43585	9/19/1942	Los Angeles CA		
& Brenda L. Morr	-do-		12/19/1948	Decator IL	10/19/1968	
Etc.						

Where is the Fitch Flag?

During the Civil War Nathaniel's daughters sewed together a Union flag to demonstrate their support of the United States' war effort. The flag was displayed at Fitch Reunions up through the 1920's and perhaps later, usually as a photographic backdrop.

At the 1956 Reunion, Nina Fitch presented the flag, which had been given to her by Ida Fitch Mason. Helen Hawver was asked to call the Allen County/Fort Wayne Historical Museum and have it placed there with other Fitch family artifacts.

A recent inquiry by Sister M. Alma Louise indicates that the flag is not in the Museum's collection. If anyone has any information on the flag's whereabouts, it would be appreciated if they would contact the family historian. We would like to get color photos of the flag and, if there should be another reunion, we would like to have the flag displayed there. (See Pgs 18, 24, 27)

Another Mystery...

The Photos of Ivan and Frank Fitch

It is believed that both Ivan and Frank Fitch (a grandson and son of Perry, respectively) had old Fitch photos and other memorabilia. We have one photo with Frank's name stamped on its back, implying that he was the photographer.

Their direct lines ceased when Ivan died in 1979, and Frank's only daughter died in 1975. It is possible that their photos have been lost or destroyed, but we are hoping that someone knows of their whereabouts.

If you have any clues, please contact the family historian. We would be very grateful, as there are very few old photos and documents available to us at present.

Fitch Reunions Remembered
1884 - 1986



The 1884 Reunion "Luncheon"

There was a definite focus on food from the very earliest Reunions, as documented by this photo. Regretably, the informality of the situation prompted many of the children to move about during the long exposure, making most of them small blurs. Close-ups of this photo are on the following pages.

Very few families can boast of having reunions for 100 years, but our Fitch family can. Thanks to the many Reunion secretaries, who wrote minutes of the Reunion activities, the recollections of Mary Belle Brogren, Carolyn Davis and Elaine Kirbach, Marie Fitch Houser's diary (provided by Elaine) and a collection of early photographs, it is possible to get a sense of what the early Reunions were about.

The first documented Reunion was held in 1884 at the Fitch Homestead in Perry Township. Two photos of that Reunion have survived. A formal group photo, which was originally published in the 1972 Fitch Lineage Book, is reprinted on page 6. A second more informal photo provides some insight into one of the major events at Reunions: A potluck luncheon eaten together under the trees.

After a number of casual Reunions, a more formal structure was adopted in 1902 when Mathias Fitch was elected president of the Reunion "organization". Emma Fitch Hartzell was the secretary from 1902 to 1908, when Jerome Gloyd and Belle Fitch became president and secretary, respectively.

From 1911 to 1914 John Fitch presided as president with Kenneth Beers as secretary. Kenneth was, among other things, a journalist, and his minutes are among the most descriptive. Kenneth also took photographs at the Reunions, and two small booklets of his photos from 1914 and 1915 have survived. Excerpts from Marie Fitch Houser's diary in 1913 provide insights into the impact of the Reunions on those who lived near Huntertown, Indiana.



THE FITCH FAMILY PICTURE TAKEN IN 1884

STANDING

Perry Fitch, Mathias Fitch, Irvin Franklin Stratton, Ida Fitch, Allen Monroe Hartzell, Amos Fitch, Levi Beers, and Jerome Gloyd

SEATED

Sarah Elizabeth Fitch, Frances Vandolah Fitch holding her youngest child Beatrice Fitch, Althea Fitch, Harvey Fitch holding his first child Audrey Fitch, Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton, Emma Fitch Hartzell, Nancy Hunter Fitch with Gladys Fitch, Jane Fitch Beers holding Bertha Beers and Fitelia Fitch Gloyd with Otis Gloyd.

Front Group of Girls are: Stella and Della Gloyd – Bessie Fitch and Margarita Beers.

The Teen Age Boys are left, Schuyler Fitch and William Fitch; right, David Fitch

The Boys in the picture include Kenneth and LeRoy Beers, John and Walter Fitch and the sons of Perry Fitch - Oliver, George, Bert Kelsey and Frank.

Francelia Fitch Fair lived in Kansas in 1884. Charles and Allen Fitch were living in Iowa.

Seymour buried in PA. Died 1855
JOHN died in 1841

Nathaniel Jr. and Sarah Delong Fitch

(The following details of Fitch family life were compiled from many sources. Notes and materials gathered by Alice Beers Kephart, Kenneth Beers and Margarita Beers Ozanne were especially helpful. The intent is to supplement, not repeat, the material in "Fitch Family History with Lineage Lines of Nathaniel and Sarah Delong Fitch.")

Nathaniel was "bound out" for six years to learn the blacksmith's and gunsmith's trades to a party in Easton, Pennsylvania by his father. (Easton was about 100 miles from his home.) He came home in about six months with the knowledge of the trades and is said to have run away from his apprenticeship. He opened a shop on the old homestead in partnership with his brother Giles. After Giles learned the trade, Nat, as Nathaniel was called, said that there wasn't enough work for the two, so he sold out to Giles.

Apparently, Nathaniel wanted his father to give him a spring for making scythes. His father refused, and Nathaniel left home and went west with $.15 in his pocket, a rifle, a bag of salt, a hatchet and whatever else he had tied in a bandana handkerchief. He wasn't heard from for 14 years. Nathaniel wore a black handkerchief around his neck for years.

In Wabash, Indiana, Nathaniel set up his blacksmith shop and made locks, guns, traps, hatchets, plowshares, axes and other needed hardware. He was an expert at tempering steel, and customers would come from Michigan and all around. He made all the ironwork for the canal locks between Wabash and Fort Wayne (ultimately the canal ran to Toledo and the Great Lakes), moving his shop along with the advance of the canal.

When Nathaniel would come home to visit during this canal blacksmithing, if the creek was running full, he would put his money belt under a big rock and swim across. Some time later if he ran out of money, he would go and get his money belt.

A permanent camp of Indians was nearby when he first set up his shop. They could be seen through the woods and would come begging Nathaniel to mend their traps and guns. On one occasion he was obliged to ask an Indian, who had a gun to mend, to wait, whereupon the Indian came at Nathaniel with a knife. Nathaniel was by the forge, working on a sharp shovel, and was ready to cut the Indian's head off. Another Indian, the chief named Chopine (Little Turtle) took the first Indian away, saying, "bad Indian," which referred to his drunken state.

A year or two after coming to Indiana, Nathaniel went back to Pennsylvania for a girl. She refused to come west. "Too wild." Two of his brothers, John and Seymour ("pretty boys") did come out but got wet, took cold and died.

Sarah Fitch was a DeLong, born near Dayton, Miami County, Ohio. Sometime thereafter she lived in Pennsylvania. Her father was from Germany and was unkind to her. He was educated but did not speak English. Her mother was a Statler. Sarah was never educated due to the German attitude toward girls and could neither read nor write. Later in her life she learned to read and to write a little, but there were simply no opportunities for formal schooling.

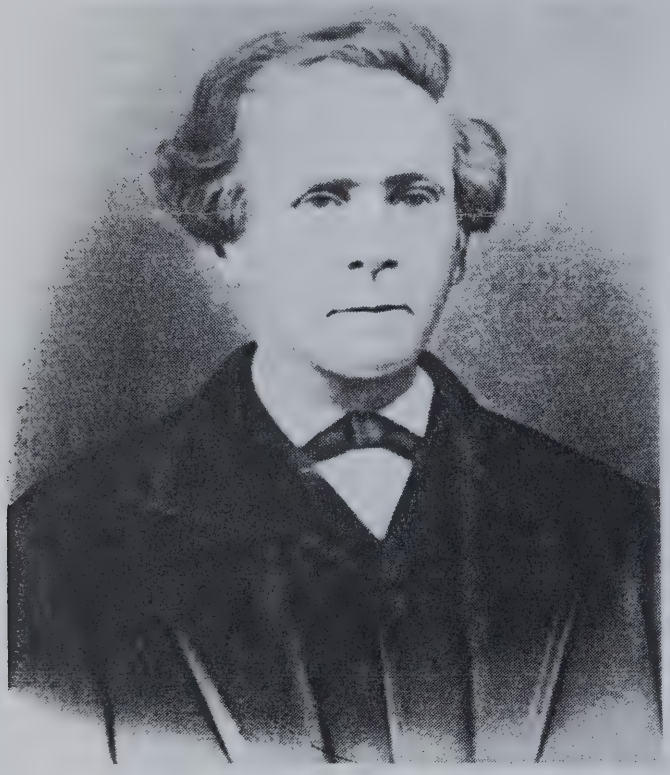
Sarah spent 45 minutes every day for three months making a rude dam across a large stream. One day a raft of a thousand logs came down the stream and destroyed the dam. She came back through the woods shouting.

A neighbor family (Cumstock) was planning to go west by wagon. Sarah ran away from home at daybreak and left with the Cumstocks. She went with them to her sister's, Mrs. Christina Fair, in Dekalb County. Sarah worked for Christina, then went to Auburn where she worked in a tavern. Next she went to the Vandolers. She cooked for eight men, cared for their mother and baby, made a garden, carried water up a hill and washed clothes for $.50 a week.

Nathaniel had a log hut near the Fairs' home. His oxen strayed away, and he went to the Fairs' to hunt them. There he first saw Sarah. Soon thereafter, he went to the Fairs' door, stated that he was looking for a wife and inquired if there were any single women there. Christina replied that her sister wasn't married and called her to the door. Sarah looked Nathaniel over and said, "Well, I'll take him."

Nathaniel and Sarah were married in June 1840. She wore a changeable silk dress, which she remembered fondly. On the day after her wedding she walked to their 20 acres and picked a bucket of strawberries. She and Nathaniel began housekeeping in a log house on the edge of a hill near a spring near Huntertown, Indiana. They lived there until 1854 or 1855 when they moved to a larger frame house where Sarah Elizabeth was born. The log house was torn down in 1855.

Nathaniel was six feet tall in his stocking feet. His arms and legs were scarred where horses had jerked before the nails had been turned in shoeing. He wore homemade clothes but on one occasion went to Fort Wayne to buy a suit. The store owner fitted him and said, "That suit just fits you," whereupon Nathaniel bent over and split the coat. "What are you made of," the owner asked. Nathaniel then lifted a two bushel sack of wheat and put it in the wagon.



Nathaniel Fitch, Jr., age 64 (c. 1870)

Apparently Nathaniel was not one of the county's classiest dressers. One day he went to town in search of a new mill stone. The young man at the store didn't think much of his appearance and couldn't believe he could have any money to pay for it so he went back to check with his boss. He said, "There's a man out here who wants to buy a mill stone, but he doesn't look like he's got $10 to his name." The owner looked and seeing that it was Nathaniel said, "That is Nathaniel Fitch. Sell him four or five if you can. He is a big land owner north of here."

On another occasion, when the government opened up the land in Iowa, Nathaniel decided to go. He walked most of the way. The last day before he got to the town where the land office was, a man came along in a buggy and gave him a lift. When they got to town, the man invited Nathaniel to eat supper with him. Nathaniel turned him down. After eating, the man went to the land office, only to learn that the last of the land had been sold to Nathaniel Fitch. "He is that man standing across the street." The man remarked, "That is the man that rode to town with me. I thought he was a wanderer. I offered to buy his supper. He didn't look like he had a dime."

On that trip to Iowa he wore a vest that Sarah had made, with gold coins sewed into the lining in many places. He never took it off during the entire trip, except when he needed money.

There were two forges. The children would gather to watch the sparks fly, and Nathaniel, wearing his leather apron, would drive them off for their safety. He would take the boys to the shop but never the girls.

Nathaniel was known as a prodigious walker, perhaps because he didn't like horses. He held a mortgage on some property some distance away. When he heard that the man was going to leave, he said, "I guess I'll go over there. Maybe I'll be gone over night." After breakfast he departed and arrived by nightfall, having walked all day.

On another occasion, Harvey and Amos started to Fort Wayne with two loads of wheat, leaving Nathaniel at home. When they arrived in Fort Wayne, Nathaniel was there talking with friends.

Nathaniel liked to challenge the boys to a race to town. He would start off on foot, and the boys would take horses, but he would be waiting in town when they arrived.

The Fitches were Democrats. Nathaniel felt that Negroes were better off with their masters, yet opposed slavery. When Perry was drafted into the Union Army during the Civil War, Nathaniel went to Kelloggsville and bought him off with greenbacks. When the boys were excited by the drums of war, he would say, "Take your hoe (or cradle) and get back to the field."

Nathaniel wrote into one of his books the following inscription: "Don't steal this for fear of life, For don't you see the butcher knife."

Nathaniel didn't like horses and never drove them. He never owned a buggy until Sarah received some money from Ohio. Then he bought a three seated spring wagon. But he liked cats and often played with one that he had at the mill. Sarah always had her own riding horse.

When men were building a new house, one dove off a rafter to prevent Amos from injuring the twins (Fitelia and Francelia) with a hatchet.

During the cholera plague that swept the community one year, Sarah and Nathaniel went nightly to help the sick and dying. They changed clothes down by the creek. She went to nurse, and he went to make coffins. In the morning they would bathe in the cold creek and put on the clothing they had left there before returning to their families.

Sarah was also an active midwife, who assisted in many births in the county.

Sarah made cheese and barrels of pickles for sale (soaking and stemming the pickles was extra). In the kitchen loft, an attic over the porch, dried apples, pumpkins and grapes hung in cotton sacks from the rafters.

Sarah cooked for years before a fireplace and grated corn to make meal before the mill was built. Nathaniel later got her a stove with 3 lids and a big oven on top. She baked salt-rising bread in a round Dutch oven or later in the stove.

Their ninth child, Harvey, remembers, "We didn't have a variety of food, but had plenty of it ... meat, potatoes, and bread. If we had anything sweet, it was usually maple syrup or sorghum molasses." There were deer, wild turkeys and peacocks in the woods. If successful at hunting, the boys would bring home squirrels.

The loom upon which their woolens were woven was in the room next to the kitchen. Shortly after its installation, there was consternation in the kitchen as breads and cakes would fall during baking. It was discovered that the thump of the loom was the cause.

There were always 5 or 6 hired hands eating along with the family, making meals for 20 a common occurrence. One winter 20 students ate there and went to the seminary. The hired hands ate first, then the children, who sat on the stairs and waited their turn at the table.

The Fitches had a cane mill to produce sorghum molasses (from millet), of which there were up to five barrels stored in the cellar at any one time. One pushed the cane in, and one prodded the horse. The molasses came out green and had to be boiled and skimmed out of doors under shelter.

To wash clothes, Sarah went down a steep hill to the creek, beside which she had a big iron kettle. She would dip water from the creek and boil the clothes, using soft soap. After rinsing in another tub, the clothes were hung near the creek if there were no cattle loose. Some of the better clothing was taken up the hill and hung by the house.

Ida was in Wabash when Kenneth Fitch Beers was born (1876). A stovepipe above the nurse who was holding Kenneth fell. Ida leaped up and caught it before it hit him.

When the men at Amos' were out of meat, Nathaniel would take his gun into the woods and shoot and dress a deer and, once in awhile, a bear. Then Sarah and the boys would hitch up the team of oxen, go through the woods and pick up the deer.

Ida would go off to the woods to read. When a horse needed to be hitched, she'd be called.



Sarah Delong Fitch, age 52. (c. 1870)

The children would get up early and chase down to the plum thicket where there were five wild plum trees. They would pick up those on the ground before the hogs got them. There were also wild grapes and gooseberries, which were put in a coarse sack and rubbed with mittened hands to get the prickers off.

For sweets there was taffy, which the children would pull, and popcorn with molasses on it. Sweet corn was parched in a skillet with butter on it.

Nathaniel hated to see girls with petticoats showing. If there was a hole in a dress, he would

say, "Tut, tut, tut. My grandmother never went that way." If the children were cutting up at the table, he just raised his finger at them or rapped on the table. The children subsided at once. He never raised his voice to them.

If a group of children were tee-heeing in the corner at the steps, without a word Nathaniel would take one by the hand and give a gentle shove with his foot to one corner, another to another corner, etc. to break up the party.

Sarah was also a no-nonsense grandmother. One of her grandchildren would beat his head on the floor and watch his mother for a reaction. When he visited Sarah, he got water in the face for his behavior. (Bess)

While Sarah was critical with her family, she had a mischievous side, too. One time she invited two granddaughters to go shopping with her in Fort Wayne. They had to walk from the farm to the railroad track, where the train would stop for them. On their way walking home. Sarah said, "Let's rest awhile." Before starting on, she took her drawers off, tied knots in each leg, put their packages in the legs and then put it over her shoulder. She then said, "Let's hear what the girls have to say about this!"



Dr. David Fitch and Harvey Fitch, brothers of Jennie. 1937. (L to R)

Bruno, a Newfoundland and one of the family dogs, followed Dave to Fort Wayne, where Dave attended school. Ida saw Bruno looking for Dave on campus. Bruno would wait for Dave on the hill every Friday. Bruno would also steal taffy from the girls and on one occasion lapped up apple butter that Sarah had put outdoors to cool.

Bruno would go with Dave when he went hunting squirrels, but Bruno's preference was hunting woodchucks, where he would go a block on his belly to head off a woodchuck from his hole. He apparently hated men with packs, and, when a peddler came to the house. Bruno's hackles were up even before he saw the peddler.

Boots were made periodically by a cobbler who would stand each person against a wall, mark the length of his foot on the floor and then measure the distance with a stick. Shoes were carried coming and going to Sunday school. Nathaniel said that if you got them wet, you had to wear them until they were dry or you couldn't get them on again.

Much of their clothing was woolen, made from their own sheep. "Ida Fitch's got the itch, and all the children know it. If she don't oint at every joint." Nathaniel would carry his white shirt when going somewhere "dressed up." Fitelia made his shirts with collars attached and turned down. No ties.

Before Sarah had a loom, there were no night clothes. The girls took off their drawers and slept in chemises ... low necks, short sleeves. Cold! Later Hannah Garrison took 2 or 3 colors of yarn and wove night clothes. The boys' plaid shirt material was made of 4 threads of blue and 4 threads of white. Girl's panties were also made, although later some were made of store-bought material.

When Perry, their first child, married Sarah Gloyd in 1864, there was a big two day wedding, starting on Sunday. The children remember how "unfair" it was. They had to be at school on Monday, across the creek, where they could watch the Fitches and Gloyds celebrating in Nathaniel's yard. Fitch children went to school all year.

Allen, their eleventh child, was born in February, 1857, but wasn't named until October, 1858, when Alice was born. Nathaniel finally said, "We'll call him Allen and the girl Alice."

When Sarah knew that Dave (their 15th child) was coming, she went outdoors, took hold of the clothesline and cried bitterly, "Can I go through that again?" She was 47 when Dave was born, 23 years after Perry's birth. Her first grandchild was born just 3 months after Dave's birth.

Her sister, Henrietta Delong Young, who was living in Ohio, sent a box of baby clothes, including a little green jacket with buttons. Dave was

There was an original old log school house on Nathaniel's land, which Perry and the older Fitch children attended. A smooth topped table, flanked by a pair of long benches made of slabs with the flat side up ran the length of the building. Another table and benches were against the wall. The children would recite between the tables. It was a small building and smelled of the frying and cooking.

Perry Center Seminary was founded in 1856 by Nathaniel, Jacob Kell, George B. Gloyd and Mr. Hilegart to provide education for the community's children. There was no toilet or well. Nathaniel boarded the masons who built the foundation, free. The seminary was a frame building of which the German Mr. Kell said in broken English, "I wish you would break up. Then I'd do better."

There were two large rooms for classes on the first floor, and six or seven rooms on the second floor. The teacher lived at the seminary, and some boys stayed there during the week in the upstairs rooms. Others came by wagon or sled, gathering others along the way. Moll and Jane Fair, Mary Fleming, Ann Ross and two Vandoler girls would spin and do other work for Sarah in return for board. VANdolah

There was an oral entrance exam, where the teacher asked the questions, and parents sat up front to watch when their own children were quizzed.

The teacher, Mr. Fleming, had "Eastern" ideas as to what should be taught and had the children studying Greek and Latin, among other subjects. Nathaniel's third child, Mary Jane, known as Jennie, took to this study like a duck to water and she prepared for college. During her time at the Academy she and the other girls made a Union flag, which has been displayed at Fitch reunions ever since.

Jennie attended and graduated from Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan, in 1870. Nathaniel wanted Jennie to come back home to teach after graduation. She did return the summer after graduation to teach in the white schoolhouse across the creek but then taught in Fort Wayne, in Utica, New York and in Wabash, where she married Levi Beers, a teacher. During that summer the parents paid by subscription for teaching their children.

Nathaniel was quite disappointed that Jennie left. Her sister, Sarah, their tenth child, says that Jennie was "the Lady of the family. It seems that such a large family could afford at least **one**. But there wasn't but one.

"The rest of us came up the hard way. Fitelia, Francelia and I were the Huskies, and you may know running as many farms as Father did with a large family and always hired hands, there was plenty to do. We did not live out of tin cans in those days as we do now.



The flag made by Jennie Fitch and her sisters at the start of the Civil War. It was shown at each Fitch Reunion.

Moll (MARY) + JANE FAIR – 4 –
were daughters of ABRAHAM + CHRISTINA DELONG
making them COUSINS of Jennie + the Fitch kids



Jennie Fitch's college graduation dress, worn by Lucille Ozanne in 1930 in front of the Ozanne home in Neenah, Wisconsin.

"Jennie had it plenty hard after her family came, and she had to learn what we did at home. I'm not blaming her. It was Father that spoiled her."

During the early years of the Civil War, sometimes 150 students attended the seminary. When military drums were heard, Mr. Fleming would dismiss the class and all would go out to watch 10 or 12 wagons of soldiers go by. The seminary closed when its teacher and many students enlisted in the Union Army. The deed wasn't recorded, and when the building ran down, Mr. Kell tore it down and built a barn.

A non-graded district school provided education to the younger Fitches. Fitelia and Francelia left school at 10 years. To reach the school, the children crossed Cedar Creek on a fallen tree trunk. When the creek flooded, Nathaniel would take his and neighbor children across in a canoe, cautioning them not to put their hands out.

In the morning Nathaniel would glance at the clock and say, "school time." Then he would stand in the door and see that the children got off to school. The children remember cold mornings, just daylight. When the children came home from school, mush, which had cooked for several hours, was on. Later, when Nathaniel was sick and didn't go out, he would stir it. There would be pitchers of milk and maybe doughnuts and apple pie.

On summer days the girls would go barefoot to school and carry old dresses that they would hide in the willows by the creek. At noon they would change into their old dresses and go swimming. Jennie would come and throw stones just for fun, to make them think it was the boys. (probably Sarah)

On the last day of school there was always an exhibition. Ida was to speak "Over the Hill to the Poorhouse," which had just come out in Will Carleton's book. Ida would get mad at Jennie about something, get stubborn and not do anything. After she went to bed, Jennie would go up and coax her and teach her "Over the Hill." On the last day Ida spoke it, wearing a long black dress, bent over with a cane. Mrs. Stover, the preacher and Miller's wife, cried. Everyone cried.

Tables would be carried out under the big oaks for lunch and food put on the table. The children ate first, waited on by their mothers. On another big oak tree up a little ways, Mr. Stone would bring a big rope from the mill and put up a swing. Mrs. Noonan would come and bring a pillow case to put anything left over to take home.

Behind an early portrait of Jennie (about age 18) was a lock of her hair (long, golden and tied with a red silk thread) and a poem in her handwriting: "Jennie Fitch is my name, And single is my station. And happy may the gentlemen be, When he makes the alteration."

Ida always had a strip of bed ticking sewed in her skirt bands because she played so rough and came home with her clothes torn. Skirts were very full with a couple of petticoats. She was very rowdy as a girl, followed by Allen, who was impetuous and impulsive. It became a family habit to train her, and this made her more stormy.

Emma would sit in a little rocker, rocking and wailing. She was always sickly as a child.

The children never had any typhoid, just children's diseases. No broken bones, except John, who went into the barn where the horses were loose and was kicked. John died young.

Nancy, Sarah's fifth child, took summer complaint (cholera infantum) and died. Sarah felt that "If I hadn't given up there, I'd have saved Nancy."

Additional Stories
The Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch Family

Alice Beers Kephart, one of Jennie's daughters, was a graduate of Northwestern University and a school teacher in Colorado. She attended a number of Fitch Reunions and at the 1934 Reunion wrote down the reminiscences of her surviving aunts and uncles.

From her notes came much of the story of Nathaniel and Sarah that was published in "Jennie's Family." After attending the 1992 Fitch Reunion and finding so much interest in Nathaniel's family, I returned to Alice's notes and prepared this additional material on Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch's family.

Some of Alice's handwriting was difficult to read and some of her spelling of places and people's names was, I suspect, phonetic. Any help in getting the correct spelling would be appreciated, as well as factual corrections and additional information.

Alice recorded 64 pages of Fitch family history that would probably have been lost, except for her effort. We owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude. Thanks also go to Alice's sister (and my grandmother), Margie Beers Ozanne, and my mother, Lucille Ozanne Cassell, for safeguarding these notes since Alice's death in 1965.

Bill Cassell
(A great, great grandson)
September 22, 1992

Nathaniel and Sarah began housekeeping in a log cabin on what became Ame's place, on the edge of a hill, near a spring and a wild cherry tree. In 1934 there was a walnut tree right where the cabin used to stand.

There were peach trees at Nathaniel's, which he bought from a travelling nurseryman for $1.00 a dozen. Nathaniel would go to the orchard, look up at the trees and pick out a fine peach. He would peel it and, if a child appeared, would offer a bite impaled on his knife.

In addition to peaches, their orchard had early red apples, sweet apples, old fashioned rambo (insect-free) apples and bell flower (fall) apples. The outside row of trees produced a good apple but not a good keeper.

Ame was an apple eater. He would eat about six apples a day: one at recess, 3 or 4 at noon, another at recess. He

would stuff his pockets with apples. "Ame, give me an apple." "No, I've only got six."

Fi and Frank (the twins) as babies travelled in a horse basket made by an old itinerant basket maker from willows in the creek. Sarah would ride sidesaddle with the basket in front, knitting while the horse walked.

Allen Al had ague and was carried on a pillow as a baby.

For medicines there was gypsum weed, which was pounded and mixed with lard as a salve. There was sulphur and molasses, as well as bineret (sic) that grew in marshy places Bitters and was used in tea for ague.

"Shippey Place" was a marshy, low spot in one field where wild cranberries grew. Sarah and Perry once took a load of cranberries to town, sold them and bought a set of little wooden chains.

Harve and Ida would take a little copper kettle and walk two and a half miles to Huntertown and exchange for bran Brown sugar.

The family hogs lived on acorns. Old Pink, who belonged to Emma, had only two teats. When dressed pigs were loaded on a wagon in the winter, they just rattled around (frozen.)

If a pig needed butchering, Sarah and Perry would do it. You could tell when families butchered for their hair was all greased. During the winters, they would kill 3 or 4 steers for meat.

Sometimes, Sade would take the children up to the woods to eat picnic dinner, while the men ate at the table at home.

"Younguns" dug slab wood out of lumber mill waste and split them for kindling.

Al and Charles gave Sci two greyhounds as a gift. When they would fight, the men would throw them into the mill race to separate them. Dave's dog had a double nose. The boys went to the river after corn planting, and the dogs got into the sheep and were shot.

Elizabeth

Sci's place was bought from Betsy Fair, Chris Fair's mother. Henry Fair left her to go west in 1849 and never returned...possibly killed. Nine children. Perry's place was bought from the Bakers.

No wonder we cannot find his grave
He was Peter's executor in
proclaimed dead in 1854 a year
after his father died

In Slice Stands
The Dame —
Jean Hans Dope
lives there.

The bricks in Ame's house were handmade and laid by a 92-year old mason for $112. The house was built in 1878.

Ame would work at the carding mill, taking fleece off to a corner on a sheet and throwing grease on it. Then he would work it with a pole before using picker to carry it to the carding cylinder. His recollection: "old stinking grease."

The wool from their sheep was put on hinged boards that had deep creases in one board, with strings in the creases. The hinged side was brought up, the strings were tied and the wool was packed for shipment. During the Civil War, wool was selling for $1.00 a pound.

Fi was married in 1875, the year of Nathaniel's final accident. She would brush his hair and "do for him". She asked him if he cared if she married that year. He said, "no, I don't mind". On Fi's October wedding night, some of the younger children hid peaches in her bed.

Nathaniel died on January 1, 1877. Gerome and John Rundall went to Auburn for his casket.

Ame plowed every day for two months to plant their first wheat crop. They harvested 50-60 bushels an acre and sold it for $2.00 a bushel. Children gathered the sheaves. One year during the Civil War they received $4.00 a bushel, which caused Nathanial to sell too much of their crop. They had no wheat for bread at school. The children hated to carry cornbread to school, so they went home for dinner each day. When the new crop came in, the first load was taken to the mill so they had bread again.

It was almost impossible to get wheat to town in the spring due to the muddy roads. 20 bushels would make a load for a good team.

Back in Pennsylvania, Nathaniel's family used eel skins as wheat flails. "If not careful, you got hit in the head by flail."

Ame once wanted a pair of shoes, so he took 4 or 5 bushels of wheat to town and sold them for $3.00 a bushel. Then he bought shoes. All without asking Nathanial or Sarah.

In the fall Nathaniel would buy a side of sole leather and some uppers. Spencer (sic)? Old boots would freeze, so they were hard to get off.

Dances were held in Huntertown: Square dancing, waltzing and Marley (sic) march. The last dance was a

fireman's dance. There were also necktie parties, where the girls made neckties, and the boys drank.

Occasionally, there would be singing schools when Prof. Strant visited for two or three weeks, after which the girls would give a concert. People would come 8 or 10 couples in each wagon or sled.

There were skating parties at a spot called "the Prairie." The crowd came from school.

Little Willow Creek was grand, clean, green and mossy. Later it was called "Lovers' Lane."

Along in the fall, the family would go to protracted meetings. One time there was a protestant meeting at Union, but all the children had to go to school at the Seminary. Jennie went to the meeting and stayed overnight at the Rundles. She stayed for three nights, until Nathanial said, "Ame, go to the Rundles for Jane." She came. (Jennie's actual name was Mary Jane)

Once Fish West's horses were discovered grazing on some of Nathaniel's land. Fish always had a gang around him and professed ignorance. Nathaniel went out after dark and watched. Again, the next morning the horses were in the Nathaniel's pasture. Fish asked, "How did my horses get in there?" "Barney," Nathaniel said to one of Fish's men, "I stood within 15 feet of you when you turned your horses in last night."

Rundles

Nathaniel and Rundle were talking about wood chains one day. Nathaniel said, "Better be careful, Rundle, or you'll be wearing one of iron some day." Rundle laughed, "They'll never catch me. See that horse over there. He'll disappear some night." And he did. Rundle stole and hid horses, then ran them up to Michigan.

Cloth for blue jeans and jackets was purchased by the bolt, as was material for sheets, pillow cases and chemises. Shirting (hickory) of blue with a tiny white stripe was purchased from George Derrald. Sarah knit galluses (suspenders or braces), buttonholes and all. Fi helped with knitting stockings. Lizzie Wate cut out clothes.

Fi made Ame's first suit (brown). She also made an apron from cloth that she wove. Someone else did fulling and dying.

The twins were to be in a program and were to have new clothes. They went to the end of the lane to wait for a

neighbor going to town. The neighbor bought them two gray, fringed shawls, one with white lines, and two bonnets with green feathers.

The railroad across the farm from Jackson, Michigan, to Fort Wayne was constructed by Irish gangs who lived in huts. Sarah attended to their pregnant wives as a midwife without pay.

Apparently there was a poor Irish family living in the area. Mrs. Noonan would gather up the left overs from school graduation is a pillowcase to take home. She'd stand by her son Jimmie at the graduation meal and nudge him, "Don't let anything pass you, Jimmie."

When Ida sat behind Billy Noonan in school, she always saw lice.

Sarah always had time to cut up. She could throw water as quick as anyone. Sade would get the children behind her, lined up, then play with Ida. Once they were throwing water on the porch, and Sade slipped. She spent six weeks on crutches.

Bess Fitch was the child who used to beat her head on the floor and got water in the face from Sarah for her behavior when she came to visit.

When Jennie left home, she left Fi her chair, a cane bottom rocker. Jennie had bought the chair when she was not well in Fort Wayne. (Fi still had the chair in 1934.)

One summer Will Ferrin taught at the district school. He boarded in Huntertown and walked down. Will played with the children. Ellen Thornton caught him (long legs, hard to catch) and tore his coat tail. Ellen was scared, but Will just laughed. Not a native boy, Will would read "Thanatopsis" so well that the children would cry.

The children had a three acre field to play in. They would run from school, across the road, to play king of the hill where two great oaks stood. It was a steep hill, with a creek below. Trudy Hatch once grabbed an oak limb to swing over a gully and fell, breaking her nose. (Not a strong girl.) The children also liked to play "blackman."

Nathaniel handed out money readily to the boys.

Nathanial liked to hum "Auld Lang Syne", a Scottish ballad that refers to the good old days of one's youth.

Fitch Reunions Remembered
1884 - 1986



The 1884 Reunion "Luncheon"

There was a definite focus on food from the very earliest Reunions, as documented by this photo. Regretably, the informality of the situation prompted many of the children to move about during the long exposure, making most of them small blurs. Close-ups of this photo are on the following pages.

Very few families can boast of having reunions for 100 years, but our Fitch family can. Thanks to the many Reunion secretaries, who wrote minutes of the Reunion activities, the recollections of Mary Belle Brogren, Carolyn Davis and Elaine Kirbach, Marie Fitch Houser's diary (provided by Elaine) and a collection of early photographs, it is possible to get a sense of what the early Reunions were about.

The first documented Reunion was held in 1884 at the Fitch Homestead in Perry Township. Two photos of that Reunion have survived. A formal group photo, which was originally published in the 1972 Fitch Lineage Book, is reprinted on page 6. A second more informal photo provides some insight into one of the major events at Reunions: A potluck luncheon eaten together under the trees.

After a number of casual Reunions, a more formal structure was adopted in 1902 when Mathias Fitch was elected president of the Reunion "organization". Emma Fitch Hartzell was the secretary from 1902 to 1908, when Jerome Gloyd and Belle Fitch became president and secretary, respectively.

From 1911 to 1914 John Fitch presided as president with Kenneth Beers as secretary. Kenneth was, among other things, a journalist, and his minutes are among the most descriptive. Kenneth also took photographs at the Reunions, and two small booklets of his photos from 1914 and 1915 have survived. Excerpts from Marie Fitch Houser's diary in 1913 provide insights into the impact of the Reunions on those who lived near Huntertown, Indiana.

ADDITIONAL STORIES
OF THE NATHANIEL AND SARAH FITCH FAMILY

Alice Beers Kephart, one of Jennie Fitch's daughters, was a graduate of Northwestern University and a school teacher in Colorado. She attended a number of Fitch Reunions and at the 1933 Reunion wrote down the reminiscences of her surviving aunts and uncles.

From her notes came much of the story of Nathaniel and Sarah that was published in "Jennie's Family." After attending the 1992 Fitch Reunion and finding so much interest in Nathaniel's family, I returned to Alice's notes and prepared this additional material.

Alice recorded 64 pages of Fitch family history that would probably have been lost, except for her effort. We owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude. Thanks also go to Alice's sister (and my grandmother), Margie Beers Ozanne, and my mother, Lucille Ozanne Cassell, for safeguarding these notes since Alice's death in 1965.

Carolyn Kell Davis's comments are noted in [ ] parentheses. Comments by Sister Mary Alma Louise are noted in { } parentheses.

Bill Cassell

Nathaniel and Sarah began housekeeping in a log cabin on what became Ame's place, on the edge of a hill, near a spring and a wild cherry tree. In 1934 there was a walnut tree right where the cabin used to stand. [My brother said the spring is no longer there. It provided an enormous flow of water. Something caused it to cave in.]

There were peach trees at Nathaniel's, which he bought from a travelling nurseryman for $1.00 a dozen. Nathaniel would go to the orchard, look up at the trees and pick out a fine peach. He would peel it and, if a child appeared, would offer a bite impaled on his knife.

In addition to peaches, their orchard had early red apples, sweet apples, old fashioned rambo (insect-free) apples and bell flower (fall) apples. The outside row of trees produced a good apple but not a good keeper. [The names of the apples are familiar as we had the same kind on our farm bearing fruit in the 1920's.]

Ame was an apple eater. He would eat about six apples a day: one at recess, 3 or 4 at noon, another at recess. He would stuff his pockets with apples. "Ame, give me an apple." "No, I've only got six."

Fi and Frank (the twins) as babies travelled in a horse basket made by an old itinerant basket maker from willows in the creek. Sarah would ride sidesaddle with the basket in front, knitting while the horse walked. [My mother told me that Sarah rode sidesaddle.]

Al had ague and was carried on a pillow as a baby. [Ague was a malarial-type illness with high fever and chills. Ague weed, also known as boneset, was used to medicate.]

For medicines there was jimpson weed, which was pounded and mixed with lard as a salve. There was sulphur and molasses, as well as boneset weed that grew in marshy places and was used in tea for ague.

"Shippey Place" was a marshy, low spot in one field where wild cranberries grew. [The name of a neighboring family who no longer live in the area.] Sarah and Perry once took a load of cranberries to town, sold them and bought a set of little wooden chains.

Harve and Ida would take a little copper kettle and walk two and a half miles to Huntertown and exchange for brown sugar.

The family hogs lived on acorns. Old Pink, who belonged to Emma, had only two teats. When dressed pigs were loaded on a wagon in the winter, they just rattled around (frozen.)

If a pig needed butchering, Sarah and Perry would do it. You could tell when families butchered for their hair was all greased. During the winters, they would kill 3 or 4 steers for meat.

Sometimes, Sade would take the children up to the woods to eat picnic dinner, while the men ate at the table at home.

"Younguns" dug slab wood out of lumber mill waste and split them for kindling.

Al and Charles gave Sci two greyhounds as a gift. When they would fight, the men would throw them into the mill race to separate them. Dave's dog had a double nose. The boys went to the river after corn planting, and the dogs got into the sheep and were shot.

Sci's place was bought from Betsy Fair, Chris Fair's mother. Henry Fair left her to go west in 1849 and never returned...possibly killed. Nine children. Perry's place was bought from the Bakers.

The bricks in Ame's house were handmade and laid by a 92-year old mason for $112. The house was built in 1878.

Ame would work at the carding mill, taking fleece off to a corner on a sheet and throwing grease on it. Then he would work it with a pole before using picker to carry it to the carding cylinder. His recollection: "old stinking grease."

The wool from their sheep was put on hinged boards that had deep creases in one board, with strings in the creases. The hinged side

was brought up, the strings were tied and the wool was packed for shipment. During the Civil War, wool was selling for $1.00 a pound.

Fi was married in 1875, the year of Nathaniel's final accident. She would brush his hair and "do for him". She asked him if he cared if she married that year. He said, "no, I don't mind". On Fi's October wedding night, some of the younger children hid peaches in her bed.

Nathaniel died on January 1, 1877. Gerome and John Rundle {neighbors who lived to the south of Nathaniel. Three of the Rundles went to school at the District School on the Shoaff.} went to Auburn for his casket.

Ame plowed every day for two months to plant their first wheat crop. They harvested 50-60 bushels an acre and sold it for $2.00 a bushel. Children gathered the sheaves. One year during the Civil War they received $4.00 a bushel, which caused Nathanial to sell too much of their crop. They had no wheat for bread at school. The children hated to carry cornbread to school, so they went home for dinner each day. When the new crop came in, the first load was taken to the mill so they had bread again.

It was almost impossible to get wheat to town in the spring due to the muddy roads. 20 bushels would make a load for a good team.

Back in Pennsylvania, Nathaniel's family used eel skins as wheat flails. "If not careful, you got hit in the head by flail."

Ame once wanted a pair of shoes, so he took 4 or 5 bushels of wheat to town and sold them for $3.00 a bushel. Then he bought shoes. All without asking Nathanial or Sarah.

In the fall Nathaniel would buy a side of sole leather and some uppers from Spencer [I think Spencer refers to Nathaniel's brother from Pennsylvania who married a Sickler and came to Indiana. I'm not sure, but I think that he migrated farther west.] Old boots would freeze, so they were hard to get off. If so, they went back as they are buried in PA

Dances were held in Huntertown: Square dancing, waltzing and Marley (sic) march. The last dance was a fireman's dance. There were also necktie parties, where the girls made neckties, and the boys drank. {Parker (my father), Roland and Burgess Fitch, and one other cousin whom I do not recall, arranged for dances on occasion. My father called many of the dances.}

Occasionally, there would be singing schools when Prof. Strant visited for two or three weeks, after which the girls would give a concert. People would come 8 or 10 couples in each wagon or sled.

There were skating parties at a spot called "the Prairie." The crowd came from school.

Little Willow Creek was grand, clean, green and mossy. Later it was called "Lovers' Lane."

Along in the fall, the family would go to protracted meetings. One time there was a protestant meeting at Union, but all the children had to go to school at the Seminary. Jennie went to the meeting and stayed overnight at the Rundles. She stayed for three nights, until Nathanial said, "Ame, go to the Rundles for Jane." She came. (Jennie's actual name was Mary Jane)

Once Fish West's horses were discovered grazing on some of Nathaniel's land. Fish always had a gang around him and professed ignorance. Nathaniel went out after dark and watched. Again, the next morning the horses were in the Nathaniel's pasture. Fish asked, "How did my horses get in there?" "Barney," Nathaniel said to one of Fish's men, "I stood within 15 feet of you when you turned your horses in last night."

Nathaniel and a neighbor were talking about wood chains one day. Nathaniel said, "Better be careful, or you'll be wearing one of iron some day." The neighbor laughed, "They'll never catch me. See that horse over there. He'll disappear some night." And he did. The neighbor stole and hid horses, then ran them up to Michigan. [Horse stealing was rampant at that time. Nathaniel and my other grandfather, Jacob Kell, helped to organize a vigilante group (a sort of militia of local farmers) to stop the criminals, as there was no sheriff in the county. There is still some resentment about this activity among families living in area.]

Cloth for blue jeans and jackets was purchased by the bolt, as was material for sheets, pillow cases and chemises. Shirting (hickory) of blue with a tiny white stripe was purchased from George Derrald. Sarah knit galluses (suspenders or braces), buttonholes and all. Fi helped with knitting stockings. Lizzie Wate cut out clothes.

Fi made Ame's first suit (brown). She also made an apron from cloth that she wove. Someone else did fulling and dying.

The twins were to be in a program and were to have new clothes. They went to the end of the lane to wait for a neighbor going to town. The neighbor bought them two gray, fringed shawls, one with white lines, and two bonnets with green feathers.

The railroad across the farm from Jackson, Michigan, to Fort Wayne was constructed by Irish gangs who lived in huts. Sarah attended to their pregnant wives as a midwife without pay.

Apparently there was a poor Irish family living in the area. Mrs. Noonan would gather up the left overs from school graduation in a pillowcase to take home. She'd stand by her son Jimmie at the graduation meal and nudge him, "Don't let anything pass you, Jimmie." [My mother knew the Noonan children. This is interesting as it shows sanitation was unheard of in those days.]

When Ida sat behind Billy Noonan in school, she always saw lice.

Sarah always had time to cut up. She could throw water as quick as anyone. Sade would get the children behind her, lined up, then play with Ida. Once they were throwing water on the porch, and Sade slipped. She spent six weeks on crutches.

Bess Fitch was the child who used to beat her head on the floor and got water in the face from Sarah for her behavior when she came to visit.

When Jennie left home, she left Fi her chair, a cane bottom rocker. Jennie had bought the chair when she was not well in Fort Wayne. (Fi still had the chair in 1934.)

One summer Will Ferrin taught at the district school. He boarded in Huntertown and walked down. Will played with the children. Ellen Thornton caught him (long legs, hard to catch) and tore his coat tail. Ellen was scared, but Will just laughed. Not a native boy, Will would read "Thanatopsis" so well that the children would cry. [The Thortons and Hatches (see next paragraph) were well-known families at that time.]

The children had a three acre field to play in. They would run from school, across the road, to play king of the hill where two great oaks stood. It was a steep hill, with a creek below. Trudy Hatch once grabbed an oak limb to swing over a gully and fell, breaking her nose. (Not a strong girl.) The children also liked to play "blackman."

Nathaniel handed out money readily to the boys.

Nathanial liked to hum "Auld Lang Syne", a Scottish ballad that refers to the good old days of one's youth.

Memories of Margie Beers Ozanne, daughter of Jennie Fitch Beers
Recorded December 19, 1971

Nathaniel's estate of farmland and property was divided up by his sons. Jennie, whose husband was a preacher and not a farmer, was given woodland on a stream.

Sarah heard children cry out when the teacher at the country school walked around the room, striking the legs of the children who

were seated around the sides of the room. She objected to that behavior by the teacher.

Sarah bought a piano in 1871 for $650, which she received from her relatives in Ohio.

When Sarah was riding somewhere, she would let her grandsons sit behind her and slide off the rear of the horse when she departed.

The train that ran near the homestead would stop to let people off for the Fitches. On one occasion Jennie, her husband Levi and her children got off the train and were not met by anyone. So they started walking, carrying their lunch basket. When they reached a stream, Levi rolled up his pants and was half-way across with the basket when he heard big laughter. Sci had come along with a wagon, picked up the family and transported them across the stream.

Once when visiting family in Indiana, Jennie and her daughter Margie stayed with their Aunt Fi. On Saturday night Fi took her daughters, Stella and Della, along with Jennie and Margie to a stream, where she took her clothes off for a bath in the running water. There was no bed for Margie, so Fi turned down the covers at the foot of the bed where she and her husband slept and laid Margie across its foot. (Margie didn't like it!)

Jennie wanted to go to college, which meant learning Latin. This may be one reason a teacher from Boston was hired by the Fitches to teach in the country school.

CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS to JENNIE'S FAMILY - November 19, 1992

Page 2 - While Alice's notes state that Sarah's father "was unkind to her," it may have been her brother who caused her to run away. Apparently, when her father died, Sarah's brother inherited his estate and decided to build a brick house. Sarah and her sister, who had to make the bricks, felt unfairly used and subsequently ran away with the Cumstocks.

If so, her father never came to Indiana. George DeLong could be her brother. Father's name was George

A number of Alice's notes state that Sarah's father was from Germany and had a German attitude about educating women. However, DeLong is French, and there is some recollection of her background being French. It is possible that this confusion could be resolved by her family being from Alsace-Lorraine or one of the other border areas between France and Germany.

Actually he ended up to be her cousin.

Page 5 - It was Sarah, not Jennie, who would throw rocks where the girls were swimming, trying to make them believe that it was the boys.



THE FITCH FAMILY PICTURE TAKEN IN 1884

STANDING

Perry Fitch, Mathias Fitch, Irvin Franklin Stratton, Ida Fitch, Allen Monroe Hartzell, Amos Fitch, Levi Beers, and Jerome Gloyd

SEATED

Sarah Elizabeth Fitch, Frances Vandolah Fitch holding her youngest child Beatrice Fitch, Althea Fitch, Harvey Fitch holding his first child Audrey Fitch, Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton, Emma Fitch Hartzell, Nancy Hunter Fitch with Gladys Fitch, Jane Fitch Beers holding Bertha Beers and Fitelia Fitch Gloyd with Otis Gloyd.

Front Group of Girls are: Stella and Della Gloyd — Bessie Fitch and Margarita Beers.

The Teen Age Boys are left, Schuyler Fitch and William Fitch; right, David Fitch

The Boys in the picture include Kenneth and LeRoy Beers, John and Walter Fitch and the sons of Perry Fitch - Oliver, George, Bert Kelsey and Frank.

Francelia Fitch Fair lived in Kansas in 1884. Charles and Allen Fitch were living in Iowa.

Below is a summary of our Reunion mailing list (c. 1983). To save space, the following conventions were us

1. If a man's name follows the family name, assume Mr. & Mrs, unless otherwise specified.
2. If no location is listed, we have no valid mailing address on that family/person.

PLEASE REVIEW YOUR BRANCH OF THE FAMILY FOR ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS AND SEND UPDATES TO:

Bill Cassell, 9 Independence Ave., Lexington MA 02173

PERRY FITCH FAMILY

Anderson, Howard	
Brewer, Diane (Mrs.)	Omaha NE
Click, Eugene	Fort Wayne IN
Colby, Michael	Arvado CO
DeWitt, Montell	
Evans, Gordon	Wrightstown NJ
Fitch, Cecil	Waterloo IN
Fitch, Forrest (Mrs.)	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, Fred T.	Almont MI
Fitch, Glenn	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, Ivan (Mr.)	Marion IN
Fitch, John	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, Kenneth	Inverness FL
Fitch, K.D. (Dr.)	Denver CO
Fitch, Linwood	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, Lucinda (Miss)	Floral City FL
Fitch, Oscar (Mrs.)	Garrett IN
Fitch, Oscar (Mr.)	Pittsboro IN
Fitch, Richard	Indianapolis IN
Fitch, Sue Ann	Denver CO
Fitch, Victor	East Hampton MA
Fitch, Victor	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, William S. (Mr.)	Fort Wayne IN
Gay, Max	Churubusco IN
Getty, Raymond	
Head, Roger	Yakima WA
Holocher, Anthony	New Haven IN
Hula, Hillis (Mrs.)	Pinella Park FL
Kistler, Ronald	Avilla IN
More, Marion (Mrs.)	Fort Wayne IN
More, Stephen	Ossian IN
Owens, Ted (Mrs.)	Avilla IN
Pendleton, John S.	Branford CT
Richards, Betty (Mrs.)	St. Petersburg FL
Richards, Michael F. (Mr.)	St. Petersburg FL
Sanford, John	Floral City FL
Sanford, Steven	
Smith, Kenneth F.	Garrett IN
Walberry, Larry	Huntertown IN
Wyatt, George (Mrs.)	Garrett IN

MATHIAS FITCH FAMILY

Arnold, Aaron	Columbia City IN
Arnold, Eli J.	Fort Wayne IN
Arnold, Mary Ellen Kell	Fort Wayne IN
Bailey, Ron	Applegate OR

MATHIAS (CONTINUED)

Brice, Don	Ames IA
Caple, John Alfred	
Culbertson, Eugene	Syracuse IN
Davis, Carolyn Kell (Mrs.)	Fort Wayne IN
Davis, David	Fort Wayne IN
Davis, Karl	Fort Wayne IN
Davis, Kevan	Fort Wayne IN
DeBolt, Sarah	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, Bryce	Long Beach CA
Fitch, Esther B. (Mrs.)	Garrett IN
Fitch, Eunice	Wenatache WA
Fitch, John A. (Mr.)	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, John S. (Mr.)	Auburn WA
Fitch, Larry	Garrett IN
Fitch, Noel B.	Garden Grove CA
Fitch, Robert E.	Kent WA
Fitch, Warren J.	Fort Wayne IN
Hartnett, Hubert F. (Mr.)	{died Sept. 3, 1992}
Honeick, Enid	Ames IA
Honeick, Gary	Ames IA
Jokay, Alex	Leo IN
Jones, Harold	Zephyrhills FL
Kell, Frederick	Huntertown IN
Kell, Jacob (Mr.)	Huntertown IN
Lockwood, Tim	Churubusco IN
Lyons, Russell	Huntertown IN
Monroe, Bryan	Beaverton OR
Monroe, Rebecca L.	Homer Alaska
Nealy, Don	Balboa CA
Ober, Richard (Mr.)	Temple FL
Seeger, Lee	Fremont IN
Weis, Rick	Big Arm Montana

JENNIE FITCH BEERS FAMILY

Adams, Alyce	
Adams, Dennis	Rochester NY
Adams, Marcia	
Beers, Doug Jr.	Miami FL
Beers, Jane	New Orleans LA
Beers, Nancy	
Beers, Richard	Chico CA
Beers, Robert	Lompoc CA
Beers, Steven	
Cassell, Bill	Lexington MA
Cassell, Lucille (Mrs.)	Chelsea MI
Flinkinger, Glen	

JENNIE (CONTINUED)

Gierlich, Christopher	
Healey, Craig	
Johnston, Jim	Janesville CA
Lyon, Stephen	
Ozanne, Brad	Scotland
Ozanne, D.J. (Mrs.)	Moline IL
Ozanne, Jerry	San Mateo CA
Ozanne, Larry	Washington DC
Ozanne, Robert	Two Rivers WI
Ozanne, Roy (Mr.)	
Ozanne, Steve	Falcon Hts MN
Peterson, Daniel	Harlingen TX
Peterson, Jeff (Mr.)	Madison WI
Peterson, Joyce	Concord MI
Peterson, Matt (Mr.)	Ann Arbor MI
Peterson, Susan	Michigan Center MI
Peterson, Tobias	Chelsea MI
Policht, Jill	Chelsea MI
Pullella, Santo	Troutdale OR
Sherick, Dan	Ann Arbor MI
Spangler, Patrick	Pleasanton CA
Spangler, Randy (Mr.)	
Tegarden, Terry	Cold Spring NY
Wille, Greg	Shorewood WI

CHARLES FITCH FAMILY

Bowling, B.J.	North Canton OH
Chamberlain, Bette	Howard Lake MN
Hart, Robert	
Harvey, Bernice	Minneapolis MN
Kiernan, C.B. (Mr.)	Mertztown PA
Milon, William	Minneapolis MN
Nobis, Anne	New Richmond OH
Pearson, John	St. Paul MN
Pearson, Jon (Mr.)	Staunton VA
Shirk, Loren	Austin TX

AMOS FITCH FAMILY

Dove, Kim	
Dove, Ralph	Huntertown IN
Houser, Kent	Akron OH
Houser, Mark	Xenia OH
Houser, Richard	Xenia OH
Houser, Steven	Xenia OH
Kirbach, Vincent	Bay Village OH
Noll, Larry	
Wagner, Donald	Los Gatos CA

FITELIA FITCH GLOYD FAMILY

Gloyd, Dennis	Churubusco IN
Gloyd, Robert	Fort Wayne IN
Gloyd, Sam	
Gloyd, Travis	Fort Wayne IN
Hardwick, Hazel	San Clemente CA

FITELIA (CONTINUED)

Hoot, Ronald	Fort Wayne IN
Leach, Arlene	Mesa Arizona
Leggit, Charles	Edon OH
Moudy, James	Akron OH
Moyer, Sue	
Rawles, Moudy	

FRANCELIA FITCH FAIR FAMILY

Bressler, Norman (Mr.)	Salina KS
Bressler, Palmer (Mrs.)	Lutherville MD
Cherene, Vincent	Martinez CA
Fair, Christian	Alden KS
Fair, James (Mrs.)	
Fair, Norma	Columbia Missouri
Hulsizer, Barbara	Lexington MA
Macon, James	Anaheim CA
Sleeper, Alan	Alden KS
Wall, Roscoe	Salina KS
White, Merle	Richmond VA

HARVEY FITCH FAMILY

Brown, Angela	
Brown, Darrell	Albion IN
Brown, Ormin	
Brown, Terrill	
Brown, Trumin	
Charlotte, Tom (Mrs.)	Fort Wayne IN
Degitz, Daniel	Garrett IN
Downs, Michael	Huntertown IN
Enyeart, Todd	Ontario OR
Fitch, Bernice	
Fitch, Etta	Auburn IN
Fitch, Michael	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, Richard	Huntertown IN
Fitch, Richard Jr.	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, William	Bermuda Dunes CA
Freck, Thomas	Nashville TN
Gaff, Steven	
Geller, Joseph	
Green, James	Churubusco IN
Green, James & Matthew	Churubusco IN
Huber, Franklin	Indianapolis IN
Inman, Michael	Norfolk VA
Kelham, Ann	Laotto IN
Kelham, Edward	Auburn IN
Kelham, James	Garrett IN
Lucas, Dorothy	Fort Wayne IN
Lucas, William	
McComb, Danford	Fort Wayne IN
McComb, David (Mr.)	Fort Wayne IN
McComb, Jay	Brookston IN
McComb, Mollie	West Lafayette IN
McComb, Phyllis	Albion IN
McComb, Russell	Brookston IN

HARVEY (CONTINUED)

McComb, Russell Jr.	Demotte IN
McComb, Ted	Fort Wayne IN
McCrea, Daniel	
Miller, William	Fort Wayne IN
Ropp, Mikel	Bristol IN
Baird, Duncan	St. Paul MN
MacInnes, James	Pasadena MD
Newell, Elizabeth	Fort Wayne IN
Ruen, Donald	Decatur IN
Sister M. Alma Louise,CSC	Notre Dame IN
Sloffer, Danford	Auburn IN
Sloffer, David (Mr.)	Clarksville TN
Sloffer, Paul	Huntertown IN
Sloffer, Phillip	Bloomington IN
Sloffer, Samuel	Madison IN
Sloffer, Walter	Huntertown IN
Smith, Janice	Loveland CO
Thrush, Ted	Garrett IN
Yinling, Kenneth	Garrett IN
Zirkle, Gregory (Mr.)	Carlsbad CA
Zirkle, Jerry	Lisle IL
Zirkle, Mechalle	Aurora IL
Zorger, Kenneth	

SARAH FITCH STRATTON FAMILY

Nobles, Robert	Parkersburg W.VA
Radspieler, Al	Allegan MI
Schafer, Carl (Mr.)	Fort Wayne IN
Stratton, Donald	Wolf Point Montana
Stratton, John	Laurel Montana

DAVID FITCH FAMILY

Brogren, David	Bloomfield Hills MI
Deck, Jerry	Okemos MI
Fitch, James Jr.	Fort Wayne IN
Fitch, Kay (Mrs.)	Worthington OH
Fitch, William	Bradenton FL
Fitch James (Mr.)	Auburn IN
Florsheim, Robert	Dover MA
Levay, William (Mr.)	Ft. Myers FL
Mann, Bryan	Poughkeepsie NY
Reimann, John	Edina MN
Schofield, Benjamin	Indianapolis IN
Shaffer, James	Yarmouth ME
Shaffer, Robert (Mr.)	Orlando FL
Silha, Otto	Edina MN
Silha, Stephen (Mr.)	Vachon Island WA
Vegler, Margaret	Fort Wayne IN
Wuepper, John	St.Joseph MI



The old Fitch sawmill with Mathias Fitch at the left. The carding mill is behind the sawmill.

Who's Who in the Family

Keeping track of all our Fitch kin now requires a computer, so it is not possible to publish a complete list in a newsletter. However, it might be helpful in appreciating the stories and photos to know a bit more about the family lineage. If you don't know from which of Nathaniel's children you are descended, ask a parent or grandparent or call the family historian.

Descendants of Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch

	Born	Died	Descendant Surnames
Perry Fitch	1/6/1842	4/14/1900	Fitch, Pendleton, Lawrence,Evans,Getty,Head,Richards Sanford, Click, Hamilton, Holocher, Dawson, Stetler, Dewitt, Belanger, Hula, Kistler, Owen, Ragan, Dennie, Wright, Glowaty, Gay, Akers, McCarthy, Burzloff, Walberry, Patton, Rucker, Wyatt, More, Smith, Ewing, Gladbach
Mathias Fitch (Si/Sci)	1/16/1843	12/10/1923	Fitch, Harnett, Bunker, Coen, Lyon, Balch, Blackburn, Caple, Colvin, Lawson, Culbertson, Fulk, Jones, Lortie Wies, Lockwood, Romans, Ober, Furlough, Kell, Davis Honeick, Brice, Sonderoth, Maurer, Samaniego, Seeger Dillman, Jokay, Monroe, Bailey, DeBolt, Lyons, Gulick Knowles, Barnes, Arnold, Gray, Bushur, Leaycraft, Neally
Mary Jane Fitch (Jennie)	10/15/1844	3/17/1925	Beers, Ozanne, Pullella, Lyon, Wille, Cassell, Spangler Peterson, Sherick, Harrison, Farrell, Policht, Tegarden, Wheeler-Ozanne, Gierlich, Johnston, Weber, Adams, Flickinger, Healey, Kephart, Hunt
Charles Fitch	3/29/1846	8/21/1925	Fitch, Harvey, Hart, Chamerlain, Shirley, Shirk, Nobis Baden, Bowling, Pearson, Milon, Kiernan, Vilankulu, Durkee, Anderson
Nancy Fitch	3/16/1848	9/ 1/1848	None
Amos Fitch (Ame)	6/11/1849	11/ 9/1935	Fitch, Houser, Kirbach, Wagner, Dove, Noll, Wert
Fitelia Fitch (Fi)	4/10/1851	1/ 8/1935	Gloyd, Pusey, Moyer, Emenhiser, Liggett, Brown, Walker, Hoot, Moudy, Stoller, McDaniel, Leach, Vandeloop, Hardwick, Cumberland
Francelia Fitch (Frank)	4/10/1851	12/29/1937	Fair, Bressler, Gartner, Macon, White, Cherene, Horn, Christie, Belew, Eric, Hurtig, Scully, Sleeper, Hulsizer, Wall
Harvey Fitch (Harve)	7/15/1853	9/13/1948	Fitch, Hursh, McComb, Freck, Huber, Kittaka, Sloffer, Tom, Kelham, Walters, Gatza, Thrush, Cox, Mossberger, Yarde, Yingling, Degitz, Brown, Ropp, Zirkle, Green, Inman, Miller, Vandermeer, Smith, Lucas, Gaff, McCrea, Geller, Downs, Zorger, Enyeart, Russell
Sarah E. Fitch (Sade)	3/29/1855	8/ 4/1958	Stratton, Jeschke, Bowlby, Schafer, Newell, Radspieler, MacInnes, Shryer, Boast, Boyle, Nobles
Allen Fitch	2/21/1857	12/19/1952	None
Ida A. Fitch	10/25/1858	12/14/1945	None (married Mason)
Emeline (Emma)	2/ 1/1861	8/28/1949	None (married Hartzell)
John E. Fitch	2/14/1864	5/19/1870	None
David N. Fitch	2/13/1865	4/ 4/1950	Fitch, Wuepper, Deck, Davis, Birdsall, Mann, Shaffer, Silha, Reimann, Hoza, Hawver, Brogren, Scofield, Florsheim, Le Vay, Richardson



THE FITCH FAMILY PICTURE TAKEN IN 1884

STANDING

Perry Fitch, Mathias Fitch, Irvin Franklin Stratton, Ida Fitch, Allen Monroe Hartzell, Amos Fitch, Levi Beers, and Jerome Gloyd

SEATED

Sarah Elizabeth Fitch, Frances Vandolah Fitch holding her youngest child Beatrice Fitch, Althea Fitch, Harvey Fitch holding his first child Audrey Fitch, Sarah Elizabeth Fitch Stratton, Emma Fitch Hartzell, Nancy Hunter Fitch with Gladys Fitch, Jane Fitch Beers holding Bertha Beers and Fitelia Fitch Gloyd with Otis Gloyd.

Front Group of Girls are: Stella and Della Gloyd – Bessie Fitch and Margarita Beers.

The Teen Age Boys are left, Schuyler Fitch and William Fitch; right, David Fitch

The Boys in the picture include Kenneth and LeRoy Beers, John and Walter Fitch and the sons of Perry Fitch Oliver, George, Bert Kelsey and Frank.

Francelia Fitch Fair lived in Kansas in 1884. Charles and Allen Fitch were living in Iowa.



- Reunions from Pg. 5 -

Until 1934 the Reunions were held at the Fitch Homestead or a nearby relative's place. After that, they were often held at various church groves around Huntertown, Cedarville Park or River Lodge Shoaff Park.

July 4, 1911 Reunion Minutes

(This reunion is representative of what went on at early Reunions.)

At the beautiful country home of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Gloyd in Allen County, Indiana, the 10th annual reunion of the Nathaniel and Sarah E. Fitch family was held.

The house was appropriately decorated with the National colors.

Old Glory of which we are all so justly proud, and this grand old flag which for so many years floated over the old seminary, making it especially dear because of its associations, proudly waved a greeting to all comers.

The morning session was entirely devoted to the reception of relatives. A hearty welcome was extended by the host and hostess, and all present gladly responded by expressing their great pleasure in again meeting the happy families.

At noon the basket dinner was served, covers being placed for fifty. Tables were spread on the south lawn in the shade of the large trees.

Although it would be impossible to do justice to a description of such a dinner, all present certainly did justice to the dinner.

At two o'clock, the annual business meeting convened with Mr. Jerome Gloyd, the president, presiding. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, forty-eight responding to roll call, with 79 marked absent. Total number enrolled 127.

The report from the proceeds of the Fitch Fund was given as follows: Allen Fitch $2.53; Mathias Fitch $.10; Emma Hartzell $.70; Ida Mason $.75; Fie Gloyd $.10; Harvey Fitch $.10; Amos Fitch $.60; David Fitch $.25; William Fitch $.10; Kelsey Fitch $.10 and $.20. Total amount $2.65.

In the discussion which followed it was suggested that this money be used, perhaps to bring some distant relative to the annual reunion, perhaps invested, but not to be used to defray the expense of the reunion. A motion was made by David Fitch and seconded by Emma Hartzell, that the Fitch Fund be used in some special way, and that a committee be appointed to state what it should be used for.

The motion was carried, and Allen Hartzell, Mathias Fitch and William Fitch were appointed to the committee. The committee was instructed to submit an annual report from each person who had a share of the original investment.

Dr. Mel Mason was appointed to take the collection to defray the reunion expenses.

The amount given was $4.34, which with a balance $.41 in the treasury, made a total of $4.75 on hand. The following bills were allowed by consent: Ice cream $3.00, Printing $1.35, Total of $4.35, leaving a balance in the treasury of $.40.

The annual election of officers was held, which resulted as follows: President, John Fitch; Secretary, Kenneth Beers and Treasurer, Ida F. Mason.

A cordial invitation was extended by Gladys Fitch for Mr. and Mrs. Amos Fitch, for the reunion to be held at their home on July 4, 1912, and was heartily accepted by consent.

The motion to adjourn was carried, the boys being anxious to "warm up" with a game of pitching horse shoes, and the girls to "cool off" by wading in the cool waters of the little brook running through the orchard. The invitation to "Come in, the water's fine" was accepted by several who later were forced to return to the house to hunt the lost shoes and stockings.

A lively time resulted, and a number of punishments were meted out to the culprits, Marguerite Fitch, Helen Stratton and Forrest Fitch, while several suspended sentences were given, Aunt Ida acting as prosecutor. No serious results attended those who received the duckings under the pump, nor from the fact that Aunt Ida was obliged to leave for her home without her stockings.

During the afternoon patriotic songs were sung, led by Charles Moudy with May Beers presiding at the organ. Refreshments of ice cream, fruit and lemonade were served.

Guests from a distance were uncle David Young and his grand daughter Miss Mary Young of Troy, Ohio.

Despite the fact that the weather was the hottest on record for seventeen years, all spent a most delightful day, and at a late hour departed for their homes, looking forward to the time of next annual meeting on July 4, 1912.

John Fitch, President
Kenneth Beers, Secretary

Excerpts from Kenneth's minutes in 1912 add some detail:

Harvey Fitch and family were the first to arrive, having decided that the day was ill suited to haying. Others followed in quick succession and, seated under the spreading branches of a big mulberry tree, discussed politics - - mostly Democratic , automobiles - - mostly Overlands, and all things in general until dinner was served.

And the dinner - - a genuine Fitch dinner. Chicken fried, chicken roasted, chicken with dressing, chicken undressed, chicken gravy, chicken and noodles and goodness knows how many more chicken concoctions, boiled ham, cold ham, salads, preserves, pickled eggs, deviled eggs, butters, jellies, pickles, cherry pies and other pies, chocolate cake, sponge cake, devil's food,

angel food, black cakes and white cake.

There was doubtless more, but this is only a record of that which passed one end of the table, and much more failed to pass, for the other end of the table was guarded by Rolland, John, Parker, Otis, Will and others of equal caliber.

Marie Fitch Houser's Diary

(Marie's 1913 diary entries indicate the social nature of the days around the Reunions.)

Tuesday, July 1, 1913

Kenneth and May Beers came about 11 o'clock. Men cut wheat. Kenneth, May, Marguerette and I drove down to John Fitch and Uncle Jerome's in P.M. in our car.

Wednesday, July 2, 1913

Kenneth, May, Marguerette, Gladys and I went to New Haven today. Stopped at Ft. Wayne and had two tires pumped up and tank filled. Got to New Haven about 11 o'clock. Stopped at the bank. Went up town and got soda. Uncle Allen went with us. We drove up to Aunt Ida's a minute. The folks went on out to Åunt Emma's. Marguerette and I went out with Uncle Allen. Edith and baby were there. Had good time and started back to Fort Wayne about 3 o'clock where we visited Harold at Lutheran Hospital. Came out to Huntertown where we stopped at Uncle Frank's and Uncle Harve's. Then stopped at Fred Kell's and then home. Men finished cutting wheat. Went to bed early.

Thursday, July 3, 1913

Worked all day getting ready for reunion. Kenneth and Marguerette went to Hartungs (neighbors) and got butter. Kenneth went down to John Fitch's and Uncle Si's this morning. Stayed at Uncle Si's for dinner. Uncle Si came back with Kenneth and that evening we all went to Auburn for a band concert.

Friday, July 4, 1913

We all went down to Parker's to the reunion. There were 80 there. Aunt Belle, Hurshel and Helen came down after dinner. Aunt Ida and I talked about Dr. Crile. Uncle Mel strayed away, and men had to hunt for him. Had ice cream. Heard report and went home.

Carolyn Kell Davis' Recollections

(Carolyn, who is 92, attended a few reunions as a teenager and all but one from 1923 to 1993. The reason that she couldn't attend before 1923, when the Reunion were changed to the first Sunday in July, was that it was harvest season and her father needed the horses, her brothers and herself in the fields.)

As each guest arrived, they were greeted by the host and hostess or a greeting committee. Out-of-state relatives were given a lot of attention.

As we gathered at the table, one of the family returned thanks.

After a sumptuous meal, we assembled for the business session. They followed Robert's Rules of Order, and the business was soon over. Then all visitors were asked to report all the news of their families and their part of the U.S. The secretary read the letters received from absent members. Memorials were given for members of families who had passed away. We closed the meeting by rising and singing "'Til We Meet Again".

The young men often played baseball in the afternoons. A group of men, including Kenneth Beers and Rolland Fitch, played golf at Auburn.

The children were left to their own resources. Helen Hawver wanted to supply something to entertain them but it wasn't too successful. When the Reunion was at Amos Fitch's, they could go wading in the creek, if some adults went. One time a teenage boy tied knots in the ladies' stockings and hid their shoes and hose. Aunt Ida held the culprit's head under the pump, while someone pumped water and gave him a good dousing.

One highlight of every Reunion was the treats that Uncle Mel Mason and Uncle Allen Hartzell provided before we left to go home: Two large containers of ice cream. The kids lined up and could come back for 2nd's, 3rd's, 4th's, etc. as long as it lasted. For most of the kids this was the only ice cream that they would have all year. Kids were served cones; adults dishes.

Elaine Houser Kirbach's Recollections

I can remember my mother frying chicken, baking a chocolate cake, baking beans, making a jello salad and buttering slices of bread or Parkerhouse rolls.

The best part of the Reunion, as a child growing up , was playing with cousins your age and eating all the good food...and especially the ice cream cones that were handed to us "free" by a couple of male cousins who dipped into big metal containers for the ice cream. There was always a prayer before we ate and usually "Bless the Tie that Binds" was sung.

Some of the men played horseshoes in the afternoon. When my grandparents (Amos Fitch) had the Reunion at their farm, they would clean out the big barn, which was banked, up to where the hay mows were. I believe that is where the tables were set with food. I remember that they gathered all attending on the bank of the barn for a reunion picture.

LOST REUNION PHOTOS

Group photos were a regular part of Reunions, so there are clearly gaps in our photographic records. Can you help?

Helen Belle Brogren's Recollections

My two sisters and I always considered the Family Reunion a part of our summer. My mother would pack our silver and dishes and a meatloaf, (It seemed to be what she always brought.) and we would drive out to the big day with our relatives. It seemed to be always warm and summer, but then children do not recall weather, do they.

I can remember going to a little white church in Huntertown. This was prior to renting a pavillion in Fort Wayne.

The people arrived with their families, and the children piled out and kinda stared at each other. Children shyly take their cousins for granted each year, and I guess that we played after we made polite words to the adults, who made an attempt to get all the members of the family "straight". There were new babies, newly-weds and frail older people.

The women seemed to be always placing the food on a big serving table and talking and waving the flies away. The men played horseshoes.

Highlights of the day were the cousins who arrived from Kansas, the east coast and Minneapolis, etc. Rolland Fitch always created a sensation when he drove up in the latest Packard.

The meetings were full of organization, roll call and the comments from visitors from afar, memorials to the members of the family who had died during the year and letters read from those who could not attend.

At the end of the day, there was free ice cream...all you could eat! Can you imagine in the depression years, the joy of the little cousins!



Four of Nathaniel's daughters at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon. Jennie Beers, Fitelia Gloyd, Emma Hartzell and Sarah Stratton. (L to R)

Treasurer's Report

At the 1992 Reunion, it was decided to use the money that remained in the Fitch Fund to publish a newsletter, and the Fund's balance of $165 was turned over to the family historian, who makes the following report.

Beginning Balance - 7/92	$165.00
Contributions since 7/92	+305.00
Expenses	
Fall '92 Newsletter	(265.44)
Updating Addresses/Records	
Mailing	(80.94)
Telephone	(240.02)
Copying Loaned Photos	(141.77)
Portrait Framing	(77.98)
Fall '93 Newsletter (est.)	(910.00)
Ending Deficit (est.) - 9/93	(1,246.15)

In the fall of 1992 we sent out 200 22-page newsletters, of which more than 20 were returned for out-of-date addresses. The Fall '93 newsletter will be 32 pages long and will be mailed to more than 400 carefully researched addresses and 950 descendants.

Needless-to-say, we are depending on the generosity of Nathaniel and Sarah's descendants to cover the expenses of our '92 and '93 newsletters and our research and, hopefully, to provide funds for another newsletter next year.

Thanks for your support, financial and otherwise.



Sarah Stratton, Sarah DeLong Fitch (the matriarch) and Nancy H. Fitch (Amos' wife) have tea/coffee at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon.(L to R)



Frances Vandolah Fitch (Mathias' wife) peers out from behind the serving table at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon. Child is unidentified.



Harvey Fitch holding Audrey Fitch, his first child (blurred behind flowers), at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon. Other children are unidentified.



David Fitch and Jerome Gloyd (Fi's husband) seated at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon. (L to R) Schuyler Fitch (Mathias' son) sits on the grass.



Amos Fitch sits surrounded by unidentified children at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon.



An unidentified child sits with his plate in his lap at the 1884 Luncheon Reunion.



William S. Fitch (Perry's son) sits on the grass (R) at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon. Others unidentified.



Irvin Stratton (Sarah's husband), Mathias Fitch in the checkered shirt and Ida Fitch eat with unidentied children at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon.

(Mathias could be our LARRY sitting there)



Ida Fitch, Levi Beers (Jennie's husband) and Allen Hartzell (Emma's husband) have their coffee at the 1884 Reunion Luncheon. (L to R)

1905 Fitch Family Reunion

July 4, 1905
At the Fitch Homestead



(Left to Right, start at the very back row)

1st (Back) Row: Allen Fitch, Harvey Fitch, Schuyler Fitch, Mel Mason

2nd Row: Parker Fitch, Claude Fitch, John Fitch, George Fitch, Otis Fitch, Will Fitch, Rolland Fitch

3rd Row: Allen Hartzell, Emma Hartzell (Mrs. Allen Hartzell), Belle Fitch (Mrs. John Fitch), Gladys Fitch, Leah Fitch, (Mrs. Schuyler Fitch), Lucinda Fitch (Mrs. William Fitch), Audrey Fitch, Pearl Fitch, Emma Fitch (Mrs. Allen Fitch), Jennie Beers (Mrs. Levi Beers), Althea Fitch, Jerome Gloyd, Nancy Fitch (Mrs. Amos Fitch), Fitelia Gloyd (Mrs. Jerome Gloyd), Mathias Fitch, Bessie Kell (Mrs. Fred Kell), Dellah Gloyd, Leander Stratton, Norma Gloyd, Beatrice Fitch

4th Row: Bert Fitch, Kelsey Fitch, Artie Fitch (Mrs. Kelsey Fitch), Anna Fitch (Mrs. Bert Fitch) holdingThelma (babu) Etta Fitch (Mrs. Harvey Fitch), Helen Fitch, Mrs. Sterlin (mother of Mrs. David Fitch), Cecil Fitch, SARAH ELIZABETH DELONG FITCH, Nina Fitch, Stella Gloyd, Sarah Stratton (Mrs. Erwin Stratton), Emma Fitch (Mrs. David Fitch), Fanny Fitch (Mrs. Mathias Fitch), Sarah Fitch (Mrs. Perry Fitch)

5th Row: Rowene Fitch, Grace Fitch, Cleo Goff (Relative of Jerome Gloyd), "Moms Fitch" (since I don't know who annotated the back of the photo, I can't identify "Moms"), Marguerette Fitch, Ernest Fitch, Irvin Fitch, Marguerite Stratton, Helen Stratton, Marie Fitch, Carolyn Kell, Ida Mason (Mrs. Melville Mason)

6th Row: Forrest Fitch, Oscar Fitch, Robert Fitch, Jacob Kell, Merlin Fitch, Otis Fitch, Erma Fitch, Verma Fitch, Sarah Elizabeth Kell, Fred Fitch, Victor Fitch



Titled "The Progeny" by photographer Kenneth Beers. The ladies and the younger children gather under the trees at the gliding swing at Frances Fitch's (Mrs. Perry Fitch) home on July 4, 1914. None are identified.



More folks at the 1914 Reunion. May Beers is 4th from left with hands folded in her lap. Bryce Ozanne is center foreground. Margie Ozanne 5th from right, seated. Other are unidentified.



Titled "The Battlefield " in a small booklet of photos made available to his kin by Kenneth Beers. "The old evergreen trees made a beautiful background for the decorations of flags and the national colors, and the gentle slope of the lawn towards the road made an ideal place for the one long table where places were set for 83."



Titled "And this 'snap' explains the mysterious disappearance of the beet pickles." Allen Hartzell, whose back is to the camera, has his right hand on the jar of beet pickles. The other end of the table probably never got any.



Looking down the 1914 Reunion table at dinnertime. (L to R: rear) Emma Hartzell and Will Fitch. (Seated) Hurshel Fitch, _____ , Alma Fitch and Sarah Stratton



(L to R) Sarah Stratton (just barely), Jerome Gloyd and a young Fitch with something in her mouth. (R to L) Althea Fitch, Bryce and Margie Ozanne, Rolland Fitch and Mel Mason. Others are unidentified.

On Our Family Photos

Thanks to the same friend and professional photographer who carefully and without charge duplicated the portraits of Nathaniel and Sarah for us, the family historian has a photographic copy stand set up in his home.

Using a Nikon camera, special lights and some incredible close-up lenses, (also loaned to me by this friend) I am able to photograph old prints that have been sent to me by various, thoughtful Fitch kin. When the originals are returned to their owners, our family copies (and negatives) are annotated and filed in photo albums.

As a general rule, I shoot each photo in its entirety, and then, if the faces would not be identifiable in a 5" x 7" enlargement, I use an extreme close-up lens and shoot a series of 3" x 5" photos of the original. My opinion is that we should be able to see what people looked like without a magnifying glass. (Also, they are less expensive than enlargements and fit standard albums.)

The photos on this page are examples of that process. These three photos are actually parts of a single photo taken by Kenneth Beers at the 1914 Reunion and titled "A Closer Look".

If you have any photos that might add to our understanding and appreciation of our Fitch family, please send them to the family historian for copying.



The right side of the table includes (L to R) Althea Fitch, _____ , Helen Hawver and Burgess Fitch.



The Fitch family assembled at Ida and Mel Mason's home in New Haven, Indiana, for the 1915 Reunion, held July 5. Note the Fitch Union Flag behind the tree on the left.



(L to R) David Fitch, _____ , Roy Beers, Mathias Fitch (holding hat). Others are unidentified.



Ida Mason, the hostess of the 1915 Reunion, is wearing the white apron (left of center). The quality of the original photo makes it difficult to identify others; but, hopefully, someone more familiar with these faces will be able to help.



The right hand side of the 1915 Reunion photo. Again, we need help in identifying these folks.



Some happy young folks sit on the front steps at the Masons at the 1915 Reunion. Can anyone identify them?



Children at the 1915 Reunion...Who are they?



More fine looking children on the steps at the Masons' home during the 1915 Reunion. The girl in front of the post may be Hillis Fitch.



More beautiful children without any identifcation.



"The Table" at the 1915 Reunion. All of the 1915 photos were taken by Kenneth Beers. Again, someone should be able to identify their ancestors, aunts, etc. in these photos.



"The Table" at the 1915 Reunion. No identification.



Ice cream cones for all the children at the 1915 Reunion. Unlimited servings of ice cream were part of everyone's Reunion recollections. No identification.



This photo of early automobiles was included in Kenneth Beers' 1915 Reunion collection. Could this be at the Mason's home in New Haven, Indiana?

1917 Fitch Family Reunion

July 4, 1917

At the home of Emma and Allen Hartzell



1917 Fitch Family Reunion Photo

(Left to Right from the back row)

1st Row: Bert Fitch, LeRoy Beers, Kelsey Fitch, Harriet Hartzell, _____ Hartzell (2 nieces of Allen Hartzell), Arthur Houser, Althea Fitch, Gladys Fitch, Melville Mason, Kenneth Beers, Margurite Stratton, Verne McComb, Rolland Fitch, William Fitch, George Hursh, _____ Moudy (father of Charles Moudy), Parker Fitch, John Fitch, George Fitch, Claude Fitch.

2nd Row: Edith Hartzell, Stella Gloyd, Ann Fitch (Mrs. Bert Fitch), Cecil McComb (Mrs. Verne McComb), Marcelle McComb, Pearl Fitch, Clara Beers (Mrs. Roy Beers), Douglas Beers, May Beers (Mrs. Kenneth Beers), Kenneth Kitch, Marie Houser (Mrs. Arthur Houser), Marguritte Fitch, Edith Fitch (Mrs. Claude Fitch

3rd Row: Alma Fitch (Mrs. Parker Fitch), Philamenia Fitch, Belle Fitch (Mrs. John Fitch), Artie Fitch (Mrs. Kelsey Fitch, Cami Fitch (Mrs. Frank Fitch), David Fitch, Forrest Fitch, Irvin Fitch, Otis Fitch, Oscar Fitch

4th Row: Loretta Fitch (Mrs. Ollie Fitch), Norma Moudy, Bessie Kell (Mrs. Fred Kell), Audrey Hursh (Mrs. George Hursh), Amos Fitch, Nancy Fitch (Mrs. Amos Fitch), Etta Fitch (Mrs. Harvey Fitch), _____McComb, Harvey Fitch, Allen Hartzell, Robert Gloyd, Arvilla Gloyd (Mrs. Otis Gloyd), Hilda Gloyd, Otis Gloyd

5th Row: Emma Hartzell (Mrs. Allen Hartzell), Ida Mason (Mrs. Mel Mason), Mathias Fitch, Sarah Fitch (Mrs. Perry Fitch), Jennie Beers (Mrs. Levi Beers), Levi Beers, Jerome Gloyd, Fitelia Gloyd (Mrs. Jerome Gloyd), Sarah Stratton

6th Row: Margurite Griffin, Mary Louise Fitch, Thelma Fitch, Floretta Fitch, Verma Fitch, Erma Fitch, Ralph David Fitch, Icel Fitch, Elizabeth Kell, Rawles Moudy, Hazel Moudy, Iolene Gloyd, Francis Fitch

Rest a little, play a little,
Sighs and tears will come.
Store up all you're able,
Of the sunshine, while there's some.
Pluck the flowers along the way,
For evening comes so soon,
Then you'll want the memories
Of happy hearted noon.

"This verse was repeated by Roy some years ago when Alice and I were traveling with him and Clara."

Margie Beers Ozanne



Harvey and Etta Parker Fitch at their home. (date unknown)

The Memoirs of Charles Oakley Fitch

Anne S. Nobis sent a copy of her grandfather's memoirs to the family historian. Charles Oakley Fitch was Nathaniel's grandson and late in his life he wrote a most interesting and autobiography, which includes background on his mother and father, Charles and Lou Ann Fitch, as well as his uncle Allen Fitch.

Charles O. Fitch was born in 1878 and died in 1958, having lived on a farm in Iowa and then in South St. Paul, Minnesota, where he worked his way up in the live stock markets.

The memoirs are 16 single-spaced, typewritten pages and are a full of detailed stories of growing up in the late 19th century with run-away horses, baseball, dances and fights with the Irish, etc. One such story:

"Speaking of ponies, I had finished the 8th grade at the old Stickney School and was driving my pony attached to a one seat sort of buck board buggy with a high seat and would pick up Fay Murray at South Park, and we would drive to the West Side, St. Paul to old Humboldt School.

"I used to leave our pony at Sasso Mack's barn there on the yards everyday as he worked for the yard company.

" I only went to High School for three months when I quit, but during that time I must have been pretty good, as we had a Latin examination, and the next day the teacher in front of the whole class asked me if I used a pony, and I said, "Yes." She said to see her after class.

"She said that she thought I used a pony as my answers were pretty good. I said I did not think that my driving a pony had much to do with my answers, and then she found what kind of a pony I was talking about. I was pretty green and did not know that you could get a book (called a "pony") with the answers to the Latin examinations."

If you would like a copy of his memoirs, please send the family historian a self-addressed, stamped ($.75) business-size envelope with your request.

"Jennie's Family" Available

Published in 1992, "Jennie's Family", a 96-page, large format, soft-bound book, chronicles what it was like growing up as a Methodith preacher's son in western Pennsylvania in the late 19th century. Largely written by Kenneth Beers, a grandson of Nathaniel, it has been favorably compared to Laura Ingalls Wilder's "Little House on the Prairie".

Full of photos, including all of Jennie's descendants to the present, a limited number of books are available to the family for $20.00 each from the family historian.



A Fitch Reunion about 1920
Nothing else is known about this photo



A Fitch Reunion about 1920
Nothing else is known about this photo



Ida and Mel Mason
This photo is meant to supplement the Fitch Lineage Book, which did not have their photo.

Ida Fitch Mason's Remarks at the 1925 Reunion

Eighty-five years ago the fourth of last month (June 4, 1840), Nathaniel and Sarah Elizabeth DeLong were married and began in the forest of Perry Township to hew out a home for themselves and bear a family of fifteen children. There are now fifty-three families scattered all over the U.S. with 189 members from this branch.

To raise a family of 15 children this day and age; a man would need to be a multi-millionaire. Personally, I'm glad it was my lot to be born and reared in the woods on the banks of little Willow Creek. I think, I would have missed half of the joys of childhood. When I came into this home I made an even dozen: six boys and six girls.

I remember my older brothers and sisters as being young men and young women. And I received most of my care from them. I think it well for the present generation to be told of the hardships of our elders. At least, it thrills me with pride to think of our parents undertaking to rear a family with no more to do with than ours had. We were not raised on lolly-pops and all-day suckers.

First and always, they agreed their children should have an education, a thing they were both deprived of to a large extent. We were never permitted to stay out of school to help on the farm.

Our Mother and Father were manufacturers. Everything that was needed that could not be bought was made by one of them.

Our mother was our best doctor and nurse, our preacher and teacher. She was our lawyer who laid down the code of justice. Mother was police woman that kept order. And also, the Judge that hands out the punishment as all families at times need.

I have given a little of our family history.

I wish to speak of our oldest sister, Mary Jane Fitch Beers (Jennie), wife of Levi Beers.

It is with sadness we meet the passing of our family circle. Si was the life of our reunions, and we do miss him.

Our sister Jennie had a vision for each of the younger members of the family. She helped our parents carry out their educational plan. Three of us were taken to Wabash in her home and entered high school when she and Professor Beers were teaching there.

I have many personal reasons to thank her for principles she taught me when a child.

We had a circle letter call the Six Fitch Sisters which was carried on for years until we numbered five.

On March 17th of this year our sister was called to her Heavenly home from the home of her daughter in Neenah, Wisconsin. I'm sure she will meet her pilot face - to-face. We are proud and glad for the five children that brother and sister Beers have left to better the world.

Nathaniel Jr. and Sarah Delong Fitch

Reprinted from "Jennie's Family"

(The following details of Fitch family life were compiled from many sources. Notes and materials gathered by Alice Beers Kephart, Kenneth Beers and Margarita Beers Ozanne were especially helpful. The intent is to supplement, not repeat, the material in "Fitch Family History with Lineage Lines of Nathaniel and Sarah Delong Fitch.")

Nathaniel was "bound out" for six years to learn the blacksmith's and gunsmith's trades to a party in Easton, Pennsylvania by his father. (Easton was about 100 miles from his home.) He came home in about six months with the knowledge of the trades and is said to have run away from his apprenticeship. He opened a shop on the old homestead in partnership with his brother Giles. After Giles learned the trade, Nat, as Nathaniel was called, said that there wasn't enough work for the two, so he sold out to Giles.

Apparently, Nathaniel wanted his father to give him a spring for making scythes. His father refused, and Nathaniel left home and went west with $.15 in his pocket, a rifle, a bag of salt, a hatchet and whatever else he had tied in a bandana handkerchief. He wasn't heard from for 14 years. Nathaniel wore a black handkerchief around his neck for years.

In Wabash, Indiana, Nathaniel set up his blacksmith shop and made locks, guns, traps, hatchets, plowshares, axes and other needed hardware. He was an expert at tempering steel, and customers would come from Michigan and all around. He made all the ironwork for the canal locks between Wabash and Fort Wayne (ultimately the canal ran to Toledo and the Great Lakes), moving his shop along with the advance of the canal.

When Nathaniel would come home to visit during this canal blacksmithing, if the creek was running full, he would put his money belt under a big rock and swim across. Some time later if he ran out of money, he would go and get his money belt.

A permanent camp of Indians was nearby when he first set up his shop. They could be seen through the woods and would come begging Nathaniel to mend their traps and guns. On one occasion he was obliged to ask an Indian, who had a gun to mend, to wait, whereupon the Indian came at Nathaniel with a knife. Nathaniel was by the forge, working on a sharp shovel, and was ready to cut the Indian's head off. Another Indian, the chief named Chopine (Little Turtle) took the first Indian away, saying, "bad Indian," which referred to his drunken state.

A year or two after coming to Indiana, Nathaniel went back to Pennsylvania for a girl. She refused to come west. "Too wild." Two of his brothers, John and Seymour ("pretty boys") did come out but got wet, took cold and died.

Sarah Fitch was a DeLong, born near Dayton, Miami County, Ohio. Sometime thereafter she lived in Pennsylvania. Her father was from Germany and was unkind to her. He was educated but did not speak English. Her mother was a Statler. Sarah was never educated due to the German attitude toward girls and could neither read nor write. Later in her life she learned to read and to write a little, but there were simply no opportunities for formal schooling.

Sarah spent 45 minutes every day for three months making a rude dam across a large stream. One day a raft of a thousand logs came down the stream and destroyed the dam. She came back through the woods shouting.

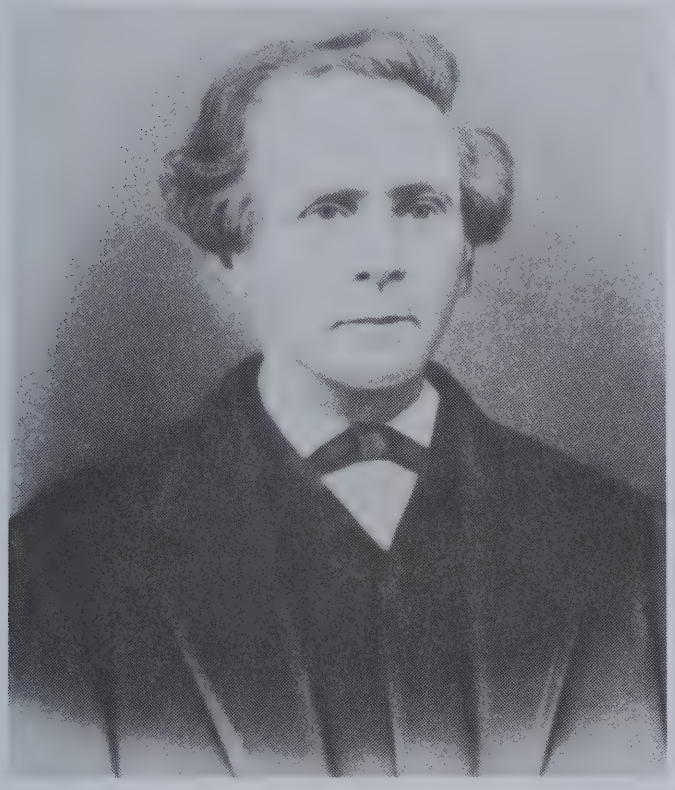
A neighbor family (Cumstock) was planning to go west by wagon. Sarah ran away from home at daybreak and left with the Cumstocks. She went with them to her sister's, Mrs. Christina Fair, in Dekalb County. Sarah worked for Christina, then went to Auburn where she worked in a tavern. Next she went to the Vandolers. She cooked for eight men, cared for their mother and baby, made a garden, carried water up a hill and washed clothes for $.50 a week.

Van Dolah's

Nathaniel had a log hut near the Fairs' home. His oxen strayed away, and he went to the Fairs' to hunt them. There he first saw Sarah. Soon thereafter, he went to the Fairs' door, stated that he was looking for a wife and inquired if there were any single women there. Christina replied that her sister wasn't married and called her to the door. Sarah looked Nathaniel over and said, "Well, I'll take him."

Nathaniel and Sarah were married in June 1840. She wore a changeable silk dress, which she remembered fondly. On the day after her wedding she walked to their 20 acres and picked a bucket of strawberries. She and Nathaniel began housekeeping in a log house on the edge of a hill near a spring near Huntertown, Indiana. They lived there until 1854 or 1855 when they moved to a larger frame house where Sarah Elizabeth was born. The log house was torn down in 1855.

Nathaniel was six feet tall in his stocking feet. His arms and legs were scarred where horses had jerked before the nails had been turned in shoeing. He wore homemade clothes but on one occasion went to Fort Wayne to buy a suit. The store owner fitted him and said, "That suit just fits you," whereupon Nathaniel bent over and split the coat. "What are you made of," the owner asked. Nathaniel then lifted a two bushel sack of wheat and put it in the wagon.



Nathaniel Fitch, Jr., age 64 (c. 1870)

Apparently Nathaniel was not one of the county's classiest dressers. One day he went to town in search of a new mill stone. The young man at the store didn't think much of his appearance and couldn't believe he could have any money to pay for it so he went back to check with his boss. He said, "There's a man out here who wants to buy a mill stone, but he doesn't look like he's got $10 to his name." The owner looked and seeing that it was Nathaniel said, "That is Nathaniel Fitch. Sell him four or five if you can. He is a big land owner north of here."

On another occasion, when the government opened up the land in Iowa, Nathaniel decided to go. He walked most of the way. The last day before he got to the town where the land office was, a man came along in a buggy and gave him a lift. When they got to town, the man invited Nathaniel to eat supper with him. Nathaniel turned him down. After eating, the man went to the land office, only to learn that the last of the land had been sold to Nathaniel Fitch. "He is that man standing across the street." The man remarked, "That is the man that rode to town with me. I thought he was a wanderer. I offered to buy his supper. He didn't look like he had a dime."

On that trip to Iowa he wore a vest that Sarah had made, with gold coins sewed into the lining in many places. He never took it off during the entire trip, except when he needed money.

There were two forges. The children would gather to watch the sparks fly, and Nathaniel, wearing his leather apron, would drive them off for their safety. He would take the boys to the shop but never the girls.

Nathaniel was known as a prodigious walker, perhaps because he didn't like horses. He held a mortgage on some property some distance away. When he heard that the man was going to leave, he said, "I guess I'll go over there. Maybe I'll be gone over night." After breakfast he departed and arrived by nightfall, having walked all day.

On another occasion, Harvey and Amos started to Fort Wayne with two loads of wheat, leaving Nathaniel at home. When they arrived in Fort Wayne, Nathaniel was there talking with friends.

Nathaniel liked to challenge the boys to a race to town. He would start off on foot, and the boys would take horses, but he would be waiting in town when they arrived.

The Fitches were Democrats. Nathaniel felt that Negroes were better off with their masters, yet opposed slavery. When Perry was drafted into the Union Army during the Civil War, Nathaniel went to Kelloggsville and bought him off with greenbacks. When the boys were excited by the drums of war, he would say, "Take your hoe (or cradle) and get back to the field."

Nathaniel wrote into one of his books the following inscription: "Don't steal this for fear of life, For don't you see the butcher knife."

Nathaniel didn't like horses and never drove them. He never owned a buggy until Sarah received some money from Ohio. Then he bought a three seated spring wagon. But he liked cats and often played with one that he had at the mill. Sarah always had her own riding horse.

When men were building a new house, one dove off a rafter to prevent Amos from injuring the twins (Fitelia and Francelia) with a hatchet.

There was an original old log school house on Nathaniel's land, which Perry and the older Fitch children attended. A smooth topped table, flanked by a pair of long benches made of slabs with the flat side up ran the length of the building. Another table and benches were against the wall. The children would recite between the tables. It was a small building and smelled of the frying and cooking.

Perry Center Seminary was founded in 1856 by Nathaniel, Jacob Kell, George B. Gloyd and Mr. Hilegart to provide education for the community's children. There was no toilet or well. Nathaniel boarded the masons who built the foundation, free. The seminary was a frame building of which the German Mr. Kell said in broken English, "I wish you would break up. Then I'd do better."

There were two large rooms for classes on the first floor, and six or seven rooms on the second floor. The teacher lived at the seminary, and some boys stayed there during the week in the upstairs rooms. Others came by wagon or sled, gathering others along the way. Moll and Jane Fair, Mary Fleming, Ann Ross and two Vandoler girls would spin and do other work for Sarah in return for board.

There was an oral entrance exam, where the teacher asked the questions, and parents sat up front to watch when their own children were quizzed.

The teacher, Mr. Fleming, had "Eastern" ideas as to what should be taught and had the children studying Greek and Latin, among other subjects. Nathaniel's third child, Mary Jane, known as Jennie, took to this study like a duck to water and she prepared for college. During her time at the Academy she and the other girls made a Union flag, which has been displayed at Fitch reunions ever since.

Jennie attended and graduated from Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan, in 1870. Nathaniel wanted Jennie to come back home to teach after graduation. She did return the summer after graduation to teach in the white schoolhouse across the creek but then taught in Fort Wayne, in Utica, New York and in Wabash, where she married Levi Beers, a teacher. During that summer the parents paid by subscription for teaching their children.

Nathaniel was quite disappointed that Jennie left. Her sister, Sarah, their tenth child, says that Jennie was "the Lady of the family. It seems that such a large family could afford at least **one**. But there wasn't but one.

"The rest of us came up the hard way. Fitelia, Francelia and I were the Huskies, and you may know running as many farms as Father did with a large family and always hired hands, there was plenty to do. We did not live out of tin cans in those days as we do now.



The flag made by Jennie Fitch and her sisters at the start of the Civil War. It was shown at each Fitch Reunion.



Jennie Fitch's college graduation dress, worn by Lucille Ozanne in 1930 in front of the Ozanne home in Neenah, Wisconsin.

"Jennie had it plenty hard after her family came, and she had to learn what we did at home. I'm not blaming her. It was Father that spoiled her."

During the early years of the Civil War, sometimes 150 students attended the seminary. When military drums were heard, Mr. Fleming would dismiss the class and all would go out to watch 10 or 12 wagons of soldiers go by. The seminary closed when its teacher and many students enlisted in the Union Army. The deed wasn't recorded, and when the building ran down, Mr. Kell tore it down and built a barn.

A non-graded district school provided education to the younger Fitches. Fitelia and Francelia left school at 10 years. To reach the school, the children crossed Cedar Creek on a fallen tree trunk. When the creek flooded, Nathaniel would take his and neighbor children across in a canoe, cautioning them not to put their hands out.

In the morning Nathaniel would glance at the clock and say, "school time." Then he would stand in the door and see that the children got off to school. The children remember cold mornings, just daylight. When the children came home from school, mush, which had cooked for several hours, was on. Later, when Nathaniel was sick and didn't go out, he would stir it. There would be pitchers of milk and maybe doughnuts and apple pie.

On summer days the girls would go barefoot to school and carry old dresses that they would hide in the willows by the creek. At noon they would change into their old dresses and go swimming. Jennie would come and throw stones just for fun, to make them think it was the boys.

On the last day of school there was always an exhibition. Ida was to speak "Over the Hill to the Poorhouse," which had just come out in Will Carleton's book. Ida would get mad at Jennie about something, get stubborn and not do anything. After she went to bed, Jennie would go up and coax her and teach her "Over the Hill." On the last day Ida spoke it, wearing a long black dress, bent over with a cane. Mrs. Stover, the preacher and Miller's wife, cried. Everyone cried.

Tables would be carried out under the big oaks for lunch and food put on the table. The children ate first, waited on by their mothers. On another big oak tree up a little ways, Mr. Stone would bring a big rope from the mill and put up a swing. Mrs. Noonan would come and bring a pillow case to put anything left over to take home.

Behind an early portrait of Jennie (about age 18) was a lock of her hair (long, golden and tied with a red silk thread) and a poem in her handwriting: "Jennie Fitch is my name, And single is my station. And happy may the gentlemen be, When he makes the alteration."

Ida always had a strip of bed ticking sewed in her skirt bands because she played so rough and came home with her clothes torn. Skirts were very full with a couple of petticoats. She was very rowdy as a girl, followed by Allen, who was impetuous and impulsive. It became a family habit to train her, and this made her more stormy.

Emma would sit in a little rocker, rocking and wailing. She was always sickly as a child.

The children never had any typhoid, just children's diseases. No broken bones, except John, who went into the barn where the horses were loose and was kicked.

Nancy, Sarah's fifth child, took summer complaint (cholera infantum) and died. Sarah felt that "If I hadn't given up there, I'd have saved Nancy."

During the cholera plague that swept the community one year, Sarah and Nathaniel went nightly to help the sick and dying. They changed clothes down by the creek. She went to nurse, and he went to make coffins. In the morning they would bathe in the cold creek and put on the clothing they had left there before returning to their families.

Sarah was also an active midwife, who assisted in many births in the county.

Sarah made cheese and barrels of pickles for sale (soaking and stemming the pickles was extra). In the kitchen loft, an attic over the porch, dried apples, pumpkins and grapes hung in cotton sacks from the rafters.

Sarah cooked for years before a fireplace and grated corn to make meal before the mill was built. Nathaniel later got her a stove with 3 lids and a big oven on top. She baked salt-rising bread in a round Dutch oven or later in the stove.

Their ninth child, Harvey, remembers, "We didn't have a variety of food, but had plenty of it ... meat, potatoes, and bread. If we had anything sweet, it was usually maple syrup or sorghum molasses." There were deer, wild turkeys and peacocks in the woods. If successful at hunting, the boys would bring home squirrels.

The loom upon which their woolens were woven was in the room next to the kitchen. Shortly after its installation, there was consternation in the kitchen as breads and cakes would fall during baking. It was discovered that the thump of the loom was the cause.

There were always 5 or 6 hired hands eating along with the family, making meals for 20 a common occurrence. One winter 20 students ate there and went to the seminary. The hired hands ate first, then the children, who sat on the stairs and waited their turn at the table.

The Fitches had a cane mill to produce sorghum molasses (from millet), of which there were up to five barrels stored in the cellar at any one time. One pushed the cane in, and one prodded the horse. The molasses came out green and had to be boiled and skimmed out of doors under shelter.

To wash clothes, Sarah went down a steep hill to the creek, beside which she had a big iron kettle. She would dip water from the creek and boil the clothes, using soft soap. After rinsing in another tub, the clothes were hung near the creek if there were no cattle loose. Some of the better clothing was taken up the hill and hung by the house.

Ida was in Wabash when Kenneth Fitch Beers was born (1876). A stovepipe above the nurse who was holding Kenneth fell. Ida leaped up and caught it before it hit him.

When the men at Amos' were out of meat, Nathaniel would take his gun into the woods and shoot and dress a deer and, once in awhile, a bear. Then Sarah and the boys would hitch up the team of oxen, go through the woods and pick up the deer.

Ida would go off to the woods to read. When a horse needed to be hitched, she'd be called.



Sarah Delong Fitch, age 52. (c. 1870)

The children would get up early and chase down to the plum thicket where there were five wild plum trees. They would pick up those on the ground before the hogs got them. There were also wild grapes and gooseberries, which were put in a coarse sack and rubbed with mittened hands to get the prickers off.

For sweets there was taffy, which the children would pull, and popcorn with molasses on it. Sweet corn was parched in a skillet with butter on it.

Nathaniel hated to see girls with petticoats showing. If there was a hole in a dress, he would

say, "Tut, tut, tut. My grandmother never went that way." If the children were cutting up at the table, he just raised his finger at them or rapped on the table. The children subsided at once. He never raised his voice to them.

If a group of children were tee-heeing in the corner at the steps, without a word Nathaniel would take one by the hand and give a gentle shove with his foot to one corner, another to another corner, etc. to break up the party.

Sarah was also a no-nonsense grandmother. One of her grandchildren would beat his head on the floor and watch his mother for a reaction. When he visited Sarah, he got water in the face for his behavior.

While Sarah was critical with her family, she had a mischievous side, too. One time she invited two granddaughters to go shopping with her in Fort Wayne. They had to walk from the farm to the railroad track, where the train would stop for them. On their way walking home. Sarah said, "Let's rest awhile." Before starting on, she took her drawers off, tied knots in each leg, put their packages in the legs and then put it over her shoulder. She then said, "Let's hear what the girls have to say about this!"



Dr. David Fitch and Harvey Fitch, brothers of Jennie, 1937. (L to R)

Bruno, a Newfoundland and one of the family dogs, followed Dave to Fort Wayne, where Dave attended school. Ida saw Bruno looking for Dave on campus. Bruno would wait for Dave on the hill every Friday. Bruno would also steal taffy from the girls and on one occasion lapped up apple butter that Sarah had put outdoors to cool.

Bruno would go with Dave when he went hunting squirrels, but Bruno's preference was hunting woodchucks, where he would go a block on his belly to head off a woodchuck from his hole. He apparently hated men with packs, and, when a peddler came to the house. Bruno's hackles were up even before he saw the peddler.

Boots were made periodically by a cobbler who would stand each person against a wall, mark the length of his foot on the floor and then measure the distance with a stick. Shoes were carried coming and going to Sunday school. Nathaniel said that if you got them wet, you had to wear them until they were dry or you couldn't get them on again.

Much of their clothing was woolen, made from their own sheep. "Ida Fitch's got the itch, and all the children know it. If she don't oint at every joint." Nathaniel would carry his white shirt when going somewhere "dressed up." Fitelia made his shirts with collars attached and turned down. No ties.

Before Sarah had a loom, there were no night clothes. The girls took off their drawers and slept in chemises ... low necks, short sleeves. Cold! Later Hannah Garrison took 2 or 3 colors of yarn and wove night clothes. The boys' plaid shirt material was made of 4 threads of blue and 4 threads of white. Girl's panties were also made, although later some were made of store-bought material.

When Perry, their first child, married Sarah Gloyd in 1864, there was a big two day wedding, starting on Sunday. The children remember how "unfair" it was. They had to be at school on Monday, across the creek, where they could watch the Fitches and Gloyds celebrating in Nathaniel's yard. Fitch children went to school all year.

Allen, their eleventh child, was born in February, 1857, but wasn't named until October, 1858, when Alice was born. Nathaniel finally said, "We'll call him Allen and the girl Alice."

When Sarah knew that Dave (their 15th child) was coming, she went outdoors, took hold of the clothesline and cried bitterly, "Can I go through that again?" She was 47 when Dave was born, 23 years after Perry's birth. Her first grandchild was born just 3 months after Dave's birth.

Her sister, Henrietta Delong Young, who was living in Ohio, sent a box of baby clothes, including a little green jacket with buttons. Dave was

named after her husband.

Sheep were raised that produced a fine, mixed wool. Nathaniel washed the sheep in the creek, and the children would watch. In two years during the Civil War five wagons of wool were produced and sold to the government for script. At one time mutton was on the dinner table. Nathaniel asked, "Did you kill one of my sheep?" Upon learning that Sarah had, he got up and left the table.

Nathaniel owned and operated a wool-carding business, as well as a saw mill. The carding mill was powered by a 12 foot diameter overshot water wheel in the basement. The two carding cylinders were 6 feet tall and 3 feet wide, made of leather with little wires put in every 3 inches. As the cylinders revolved near a table, they would pick up wool and make rolls. Ida would pick rolls out of the trough, catching it by the ends and giving it a little twist. It was then ready for spinning.

Shortly after the carding mill was built by Harry Fair in 1840, Nathaniel bought it. The building was two stories in height and 40 x 20 feet in size. Its dam was about 65 feet in length and 4 feet high on Little Cedar Creek, situated about a mile upstream from the mill. After trouble developed with the water supply, the mill was moved downstream, and the mill race was lengthened. The mill was abandoned about 1869 or 1870.

The saw mill was powered by a 6 foot water turbine. It was initially an up and down saw that cut only as it went up. Later it was replaced with a circular saw. Logs (black walnut, oak, basswood, poplar) up to 5 feet in diameter were delivered to the mill, cut into 12 foot lengths and slabbed. Some workers hewed framing timbers 60 to 75 feet long by hand.

The saw mill was built in 1840 and quit business in 1908, having been operated by Nathaniel's second child, Mathias, after Nathaniel. The mill was a one-story building, 60 x 20 feet. Mathias added a feed-grinder to the operation.

Nathaniel's death may have been hastened as a result of injuries received at Sci's farm. He was using cant hook on a log when the cant hook slipped. Logs came rolling down. Nathaniel thought that one was spent and put out his foot. He was struck, whirled around and thrown, face down, onto the ground. The logs passed over him, injuring his chest. His head had gone into a depression in the ground, or he might have been killed.

Fie said to Sarah, "Mother, something is wrong." They ran to see Sci coming with Nathaniel, walking slowly. "A log rolled over him." The next winter was severe, and he took pneumonia. The nearest doctor was Huntertown and "not much at that." Home remedies failed and Nathaniel died New Year's morning in 1877. Jennie came with Kenneth Beers, just 6 months old. It was very cold. Nathaniel was taken to the cemetery on a sled.

When he died, Nathaniel owned 2220 acres of land. It was said that he had two hobbies: Wheat and land. He was remembered as one who "never did a mean trick" in business and who raised a fine family.

According to Parker Fitch, grandson of Nathaniel, Sarah "just wore out" at 90 years old. She had a few sick spells, but every time the doctor arrived, she was OK. It was possible they were mild heart attacks. She was sick and in bed only two weeks before she died. Until then she was up and able to do her work.



(L to R, top to bottom)
Five of Jennie's brothers: David, Allen, Harvey, Amos and Charlie Fitch.

named after her husband.

Sheep were raised that produced a fine, mixed wool. Nathaniel washed the sheep in the creek, and the children would watch. In two years during the Civil War five wagons of wool were produced and sold to the government for script. At one time mutton was on the dinner table. Nathaniel asked, "Did you kill one of my sheep?" Upon learning that Sarah had, he got up and left the table.

Nathaniel owned and operated a wool-carding business, as well as a saw mill. The carding mill was powered by a 12 foot diameter overshot water wheel in the basement. The two carding cylinders were 6 feet tall and 3 feet wide, made of leather with little wires put in every 3 inches. As the cylinders revolved near a table, they would pick up wool and make rolls. Ida would pick rolls out of the trough, catching it by the ends and giving it a little twist. It was then ready for spinning.

Shortly after the carding mill was built by Harry Fair in 1840, Nathaniel bought it. The building was two stories in height and 40 x 20 feet in size. Its dam was about 65 feet in length and 4 feet high on Little Cedar Creek, situated about a mile upstream from the mill. After trouble developed with the water supply, the mill was moved downstream, and the mill race was lengthened. The mill was abandoned about 1869 or 1870.

The saw mill was powered by a 6 foot water turbine. It was initially an up and down saw that cut only as it went up. Later it was replaced with a circular saw. Logs (black walnut, oak, basswood, poplar) up to 5 feet in diameter were delivered to the mill, cut into 12 foot lengths and slabbed. Some workers hewed framing timbers 60 to 75 feet long by hand.

The saw mill was built in 1840 and quit business in 1908, having been operated by Nathaniel's second child, Mathias, after Nathaniel. The mill was a one-story building, 60 x 20 feet. Mathias added a feed-grinder to the operation.

Nathaniel's death may have been hastened as a result of injuries received at Sci's farm. He was using cant hook on a log when the cant hook slipped. Logs came rolling down. Nathaniel thought that one was spent and put out his foot. He was struck, whirled around and thrown, face down, onto the ground. The logs passed over him, injuring his chest. His head had gone into a depression in the ground, or he might have been killed.

Fie said to Sarah, "Mother, something is wrong." They ran to see Sci coming with Nathaniel, walking slowly. "A log rolled over him." The next winter was severe, and he took pneumonia. The nearest doctor was Huntertown and "not much at that." Home remedies failed and Nathaniel died New Year's morning in 1877. Jennie came with Kenneth Beers, just 6 months old. It was very cold. Nathaniel was taken to the cemetery on a sled.

When he died, Nathaniel owned 2220 acres of land. It was said that he had two hobbies: Wheat and land. He was remembered as one who "never did a mean trick" in business and who raised a fine family.

According to Parker Fitch, grandson of Nathaniel, Sarah "just wore out" at 90 years old. She had a few sick spells, but every time the doctor arrived, she was OK. It was possible they were mild heart attacks. She was sick and in bed only two weeks before she died. Until then she was up and able to do her work.

Henry ?



(L to R, top to bottom)
Five of Jennie's brothers: David, Allen, Harvey, Amos and Charlie Fitch.



A Fitch reunion at the Nathaniel and Sarah DeLong Fitch homestead. Sarah Fitch is in the foreground. (From undated stereoptic card)



The Fitch homestead as it looks today.

Additional Stories of the Nathaniel and Sarah Fitch Family

Alice Beers Kephart, Jennie Fitch's youngest daughter, was a graduate of Northwestern University and a school teacher in Colorado. She attended a number of Reunions and at the 1933 Reunion wrote down the reminiscences of her surviving aunts and uncles.

From her notes came much of the story of Nathaniel and Sarah that was published in "Jennie's Family" (see preceding pages).

Alice recorded 64 pages of early Fitch family history that would probably have been lost, except for her effort. We owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude. Thanks also go to Alice's sister, Margie Beers Ozanne, and to Lucille Ozanne Cassell for safeguarding these notes since Alice's death in 1965.

Carolyn Kell Davis and Mary Louise Fitch (Sr. M. Alma Louise) read a prepublication draft of these stories and added their recollections. Carolyn's comments are noted in [ ]; while Mary Louise's are noted in { }.

Nathaniel and Sarah began housekeeping in a log cabin on what became Ame's place, on the edge of a hill, near a spring and a wild cherry tree. In 1933 there was a walnut tree right where the cabin used to stand. [My brother said the spring is no longer there. It provided an enormous flow of water. Something caused it to cave in.]

There were peach trees at Nathaniel's, which be bought from a travelling nurseryman for $1.00 a dozen. Nathaniel would go to the orchard, look up at the trees and pick out a fine peach. He would peel it and, if a child appeared, would offer a bite impaled on his knife.

In addition to peaches, their orchard had early red apples, sweet apples, old fashioned rambo (insect - free) and bell flower (fall) apples. The outside row of trees produced a good apple but not a good keeper. [The names of the apples are familiar as we had the same kind on our farm bearing fruit in the 1920's.]

Ame was an apple eater. He would eat about six apples a day: one at recess, 3 or 4 at noon, another at recess. He would stuff his pockets with apples. "Ame, give me an apple." "No, I've only got six."

Fi and Frank (the twins) as babies travelled in a horse basket made by an old itinerate basket maker from willows in the creek. Sarah would ride sidesaddle with the basket in front, knitting while the horse walked. [My mother told me that Sarah rode sidesaddle.]

Allen had ague and was carried on a pillow as a baby. [Ague was a malarial-type illness with high fever and chills. Ague weed, also known an boneset, was used to medicate.]

For medicines there was jimpson weed, which was pounded and mixed with lard as a salve. There was sulphur and molasses, as well as boneset weed that grew in marshy places and was used in tea for ague.

"Shippey Place" was a marshy, low spot in one field where wild cranberries grew. [The name of a neighbor family who no longer lives in the area.] Sarah and Perry once took a load of cranberries to town, sold them and bought a set of little wooded chains.

Harve and Ida would take a little copper kettle and walk two and a half miles to Huntertown and exchange for brown sugar.

The family hogs lived on acorns. Old Pink, who belonged to Emma, had only two teats. When dressed pigs were loaded on a wagon in the winter, they just rattled around (frozen).

If a pig needed butchering, Sarah and Perry would do it. You could tell when families butchered for their hair was all greased. During the winters, they would kill 3 or 4 steers for meat.



Sarah DeLong Fitch with her cow, probably at the Fitch Homestead. Date unknown.

Sometimes, Sade would take the children to the woods to eat picnic dinner, while the men ate at the table at home.

"Younguns" dug slab wood out of the lumber mill waste and split them for kindling.

Al and Charles gave Sci two greyhounds as a gift. When they would fight, the men would throw them into the mill race to separate them. Dave's dog had a double nose. The boys went to the river after corn planting, and the dogs got into the sheep and were shot.

Ame would work at the carding mill, taking fleece off to a corner on a sheet and throwing grease on it. Then he would work it with a pole before using picker to carry it to the carding cylinder. His recollection: "Old

stinking grease."

The wool from their sheep was put on hinged boards that had deep creases in one board with strings in the creases. The hinged side was brought up, the strings tied and the wool was packed for shipment. During the Civil War, wool was selling at $1.00 a pound, which was quite a sum in those days.

Fi was married in 1875, the year of Nathaniel's final accident. She would brush his hair and "do for him". She asked him if he cared if she married that year. He said, "No, I don't mind." On Fi's October wedding night, some of the younger children hid peaches in her bed.

Nathaniel died on January 1, 1877. Gerome and John Rundle {neighbors who lived to the south of Nathaniel. Three Rundles went to school at the District School on the Shoaff.} went to Auburn for his casket.

The bricks in Ame's house were handmade and laid by a 92-year old mason for $112. The house was built in 1878.



Amos Fitch's brick farmhouse, built in 1878.

Ame plowed every day for two months to plant their first wheat crop. They harvested 50-60 bushels an acre and sold it for $2.00 a bushel. Children gathered the sheaves. One year during the Civil War they received $4.00 a bushel, which caused Nathaniel to sell too much of their crop. They had no wheat for bread at school. The children hated to carry cornbread to school, so they went home for dinner each day. When the new crop came in, the first load was taken to the mill so they had bread again.

It was almost impossible to get wheat to town in the spring due to the muddy roads. 20 bushels would make a load for a good team.

Back in Pennsylvania, Nathaniel's family used eel skins as wheat flails. "If not careful, you got hit in the head by a flail."

Ame once wanted a pair of shoes, so he took 4 or 5 bushels of wheat to town and sold them for $3.00 a bushel. Then he bought shoes. All without asking Nathaniel or Sarah.

In the Fall Nathaniel would buy a side of sole leather and some uppers from Spencer [I think Spencer refers to Nathaniel's brother from Pennsylvania who married a Sickler and came to Indiana. I'm not sure, but I think that he migrated farther west.] Old boots would freeze, so they were hard to get off.

Dances were held in Huntertown: Square dancing, waltzing and Marley (sic) march. The last dance was a fireman's dance. There were also necktie parties, where the girls made neckties, and the boys drank. {Parker (my father), Rolland and Burgess Fitch, and one other cousin whom I do not recall, arranged for dances on occasion. My father called many of the dances.}

Occasionally, there would be singing schools when Prof. Strant visited for two or three weeks, after which the girls would give a concert. People would come 8 or 10 couples in each wagon or sled.

There were skating parties at a spot called "the Prairie". The crowd came from school.

Little Willow Creek was grand, clean, green and mossy. Later it was called "Lovers' Lane".

Along in the fall, the family would go to protracted meetings. One time there was a protestant meeting at Union, but all the children had to go to school at the Seminary. Jennie went to the meeting and stayed overnight at the Rundles. She stayed for three nights, until Nathaniel said, "Ame, go to the Rundles for Jane." She came. (Jennie's actual name was Mary Jane.)

Once Fish West's horses were discovered grazing on some of Nathaniel's land. Fish always had a gang around him and professed ignorance. Nathaniel went out after dark and watched. Again, the next morning the horses were in Nathaniel's pasture. Fish asked, "How did my horses get in there?" "Barney," Nathaniel said to one of Fish's men, "I stood within 15 feet of you when you turned your horses in last night."

Nathaniel and a neighbor were talking about wood chains one day. Nathaniel said, "Better be careful, or you'll be wearing one of iron some day." The neighbor laughed, "They'll never catch me. See that horse over there. He'll disappear some night." And he did. The neighbor stole and hid horses, then ran them up to Michigan. [Horse stealing was rampant at that time. Nathaniel and my other grandfather, Jacob Kell, helped to organize a vigilante group (a sort of militia of local farmers) to stop the criminals, as there was no sheriff in the county. There is still some resentment about this activity among families living in the area.] (For this reason, the family historian has deleted the name of the neighbor who was allegedly stealing horses.)

Cloth for blue jeans and jackets was purchased by the bolt, as was material for sheets, pillow cases and

chemises. Shirting (hickory) of blue with a tiny white stripe was purchased from George Derrald. Sarah knit galluses (suspenders or braces), buttonholes and all. Fi helped with knitting stockings. Lizzie Wate cut out clothes.

Fi made Ame's first suit (brown). She also made an apron from cloth that she wove. Someone else did fulling and dying.

The twins were to be in a program and were to have new clothes. They went to the end of the lane to wait for a neighbor going to town. The neighbor bought them two gray, fringed shawls, one with white lines, and two bonnets with green feathers.

The railroad across the farm from Jackson, Michigan, to Fort Wayne was constructed by Irish gangs who lived in huts. Sarah attended to their pregnant wives as a midwife without pay.

Apparently there was a poor Irish family living in the area. Mrs. Noonan would gather up the leftovers from school graduation in a pillowcase to take home. She'd stand by her son Jimmie at the graduation meal and nudge him, "Don't let anything pass you, Jimmie." [My mother knew the Noonan children. This is interesting as it shows sanitation was unheard of in those days.]

When Ida sat behind Billy Noonan in school, she always saw lice.

Sarah always had time to cut up. She could throw water as quick as anyone. Sade would get the children behind her, lined up, then play with Ida. Once they were throwing water on the porch, and Sade slipped. She spent six weeks on crutches.

Bess Fitch was the child who used to beat her head on the floor and got water in the face from Sarah for her behavior when she came to visit.

When Jennie left home, she left Fi her chair, a cane bottom rocker. Jennie had bought the chair when she was not well in Fort Wayne. (Fi still had the chair in 1933).

One summer Will Ferrin taught at the District School. He boarded in Huntertown and walked down. Will played with the children. Ellen Thornton caught him (long legs, hard-to-catch) and tore his coattail. Ellen was scared, but Will just laughed. Trudy Hatch once grabbed an oak limb to swing over a gully and fell, breaking her nose. (Not a strong girl.) The children also liked to play "blackman".

Nathaniel handed out money readily to the boys.

Nathaniel liked to hum"Auld Lang Syne", a Scottish ballad that recalls the good old days of one's youth.

Memories of Margie Beers Ozanne

Daughter of Jennie Fitch Beers

Recorded December 19, 1971

Nathaniel's estate of farmland and property was divided up by his sons. Jennie, whose husband was a preacher and not a farmer, was given woodland on a stream.

Sarah heard children cry out when the teacher at the country school walked around the room, striking the legs of the children who were seated around the sides of the room. She objected to that behavior by the teacher.

Sarah bought a piano in 1871 for $650, which she received from her relatives in Ohio.

When Sarah was riding somewhere, she would let her grandsons sit behind her and slide off the rear of the horse when she departed.

The train that ran near the homestead would stop to let people off for the Fitches. On one occasion, Jennie, her husband Levi and her children got off the train and were not met by anyone. So they started walking, carrying their lunch basket. When they reached a stream, Levi rolled up his pants and was half-way across with the basket when he heard big laughter. Si had come along with a wagon, picked up the rest of the family and transported them across the stream.

Once when visiting in Indiana, Jennie and her daughter Margie stayed with their Aunt Fi. On Saturday night Fi took her daughters, Stella and Dellah, along with Jennie and Margie, to a stream, where she took her clothes off for a bath in the running water.

On that trip there was no bed for Margie, so Fi turned down the covers at the foot of the bed where she and her husband slept and laid Margie across its foot. (Margie didn't like it!)

Jennie wanted to go the college, which meant learning Latin. This may be one reason a teacher from Boston was hired by the Fitches to teach in the country school.

Corrections & Additions to the Nathaniel and Sarah Reprint from "Jennie's Family"

Page 22 - While Alice's notes state that Sarah's father "was unkind to her," it may have been her brother who caused her to run away to Indiana. According to another source, when her father died, Sarah's brother inherited his estate and decided to build a brick house. Sarah and her sister, who had to make the bricks, felt unfairly used and subsequently ran away from home.

A number of Alice's notes state that Sarah's father was from Germany and had a German attitude about educating women. However, DeLong is French. It is possible that this confusion could be resolved by her family being from the Alsace/Lorraine region or one of the other border areas between France and Germany.

Page 25 - It was Sarah, not Jennie, who would throw rocks where the girls were swimming, trying to make them believe that it was the boys.

Another Fitch Reunion?

This newsletter has focussed on past Reunions. A few of the cousins with whom I spoke while gathering vital records asked if there were any plans for future Reunions. At present there are no plans for Reunions.

However, if there is sufficient interest, there can be future Reunions, either annually or every few years. The key to successful reunions after the first few generations are gone is to find out what would attract family members and then to plan a reunion that will satisfy those interests.

Do people want to sit around and get acquainted with their near and/or distant kin? Or visit old family landmarks? Or hear the elders tell stories? Or look at old photos? Or visit the local museum? Or recreate past Reunions with wading, horseshoes and a potluck dinner spread out on a long table under the trees? Or all of the above?

If you have any interest (or even mild curiosity) in another Fitch Reunion, let me know your thoughts.

What Can You Do?

Keep me Informed

Send me your annual Christmas letters, birth and wedding announcements and obituaries. If you move, send me a change of address card.

Write your stories

Think about your (or your parents' or grandparents') life and note what people or events influenced its direction. What were its crises, joys, turning points and epiphanies? What would you like your descendants to know about you and your family? Send me a copy for our records and maybe publication in a newsletter.

Identify people in the newsletter's photos

Volunteer to help

Keeping track of the vital records and addresses of 1000 people would be better done by a small team of family historians, one for each of the 10 secondary families (e.g. Perry). I could maintain the master computer files, but these individuals would keep track of their respective families.

Help finance the Fitch Reunion Newsletter

Make checks payable to: Bill Cassell.

Fitch Family Historian's Address & Phone

Bill Cassell **617-862-6172**
9 Independence Ave.
Lexington MA 02173

Thanks!

My sincere thanks to all of you who helped make this newsletter possible.

Thanks to Mary Belle Brogren, Lucille Cassell, Alice Fitch Deck, Sue Ann Fitch and Elizabeth Newell for their financial contributions.

Thanks to Mary Belle Brogren, Lucille Cassell, Carolyn Davis, Betty Fitch, James and Joanne Fitch, Sue Ann Fitch, Jake Fitch, Victor K. Fitch, Evlyn Gloyd, Barbara Hulsizer, Elaine Kirbach and Doris Pendleton for sending Fitch photos, recollections and documents.

Thanks to the many cousins who sent me notes and letters of encouragement and interest in the Fitch history.

Thanks to Carolyn Davis, Sister M. Alma Louise, Betty Fitch and Barbara Hulsizer for helping to update the vital records and addresses.

And special thanks to Sister M. Alma Louise, CSC (Mary Louise Fitch) and Carolyn Davis:

Mary Louise (82, the granddaugher of Harvey Fitch) was the family historian prior to the 1992 Reunion and provided me with meticulously kept records and documents, including much original correspondence and a number of photos.

Carolyn (92, the granddaughter of Mathias), as noted prior to her Reunion recollections, has been active in the Reunions since 1923. She was instrumental in the publication of the 1972 Fitch Lineage Book.

Both Mary Louise and Carolyn were wonderful cheerleaders during the last year, and their roles in the publication of the Reunion newsletters cannot be understated.

Coming in the Fall 1994 Fitch Family Reunion Newsletter

- **Our ancestors BEFORE they looked like grandparents. A collection of early photographs of children and young adults.**
- **A map for a self-guided tour of Fitch landmarks (farms, houses, schools, mills, streams, etc.) in Perry Township, Indiana.**
- **More stories and photos of the Fitch Family.** ***If you can help with any of these topics, please write.)***

DAVID NATHANIEL

6501 17th Ave. W. Apt. 215W
Bradenton, Fla. 34209
July 12m 12, 1994

Mrs. Betty Fitch,
14615 Auburn Road,
Ft. Wayne, Indiana,
46845

Dear Betty:

Elizabeth and I have been hoping we could be on hand for the Fitch Reunion on August 20, 1994. We are living in a retirement center in Bradenton, Florida. Last November Elizabeth suffered a stroke which severely restricts her travel and household activities. I,also, have difficulties in walking brought on by Parkinsons.

All is not lost, however, for our three daughters will be there--Francia Mann, Alice Deck, and Charlotte Wuepper. Some of our grandchildren will also be there. I particularly wanted to be at the Reunion because I think th e name "Fitch" gradually is getting less use through marriage.

Mr. Cassell has one picture which shows me and my sister Marjorie on the fro nt row. I can't remember if Helen is in the picture, but she will be at the reunion. (I think I must have been somewhere between 8 and 10 years old)

As a young boy I loved to spend some t ime in the summer at our grandparents David Nathaniel and Emma Belle. Grandad was a verinarian and I learned to drive a car from him in the calls he made on country trips around Auburn and Garrett.

It is hard to remember that my grandfather was the 15th and last of the children!

Later, when we visited in Minnesota, we liked to go to Uncle Al's place in South St. Paul. When Uncle Al knew we were coming, he would walk across to the neighborhood grocery and come back with ripe canteloupe and ice cream. I don't remember too much about Uncle Charles,but I do remember visiting with him. He was an avid fisherman.

When we lived in Kansas dad and I would make a yearly pilgramage to hunt ducks with the Fairs at Alden. Aunt Frank (Francelia) was often there or with the Bresslers in Manhattan .We named one of our daughters Francia after a shortened version of Francelia.

We commend those of you who are being active in promoting the Reunion and hope that young people will become interested and carry things forward.

Sincerely,
Bill & Elizabeth
Bill and Elizabeth Fitch

Sarah lost her patchwork quilt to the Indians who saw it on her bed and wanted it.

Kell lineage:

George Kell
Jacob Kell 1818-1904 Catherine 1824-1852
Catherine M. 1829-1912

Frederick Jacob Kell 1872-1952 Bessie Fitch 1875-1942
Frederick Jacob Kell 1904- Elsie Adan 1903-19
Jacob Frederick Kell 1935- Eula May Freeman 1931

Catherine M. 1829-1912 was very Dutch.
She wanted and got the best of everything from household furnishings to horses. They had pure-breds.

George's wife was from Ohio.
George had George, Sol, daughter who married a Hatch, two boys who died, Gertrude. Or was it? George 1 who had George 11 who had the rest as his family? Also an Ann who married a Wymer? In 1904?

The Kells were from France. Alsace Lorraine. It is said that the Delongs were also from Alsace Lorraine.

Bessie, daughter of Mathias, being the oldest granddaughter, was a favorite of Grandma Sarah. She would often stay with Sarah. When Bessie would take Carolyn and Elizabeth to see her they would sit on two little red chairs that Sarah had hanging on the wall. Sarah had a mind of her own. Once the daughters had re-arranged things and put those red chairs somewhere else. As soon as Sarah found them they went back up on the wall. The girls would re-arrange drawers etc, but as soon as they were gone Sarah would put them back where she wanted them.

If I understand it right, Carolyn's grandfather, Jacob, was a great fellow. He had his big Bible that he read every day. At this point, I don't think she was talking about Mathias but am not sure. I wrote as she talked and at this time she was talking about the Fitch side.

As Sarah got older the family had a hard time to get her to stop milking the cow. One of the things she did was to put a light in the window when she went to bed so that Harvey and Etta (in the house down the hill) could see it and know that all was alright.

Diary is in Washington State with extended family.

Mathias had a stroke. He had written a daily diary (every day of his life) and no one knows where it is right now. Some other person (outside the family) asked to borrow it and they don't think it was ever returned. What a pity. Carolyn did say that he read his Bible daily, although I think I remember reading that he did not attend church. He was a bear of a man and really loved his grandchildren. He would put out his arms and the kids would hang from them and he would swing around. (Fitch's in Washington have Mathia's Journal)

Aunt Beatrice (Mathias and Frances's youngest daughter) loved to sing. She taught Carolyn. Carolyn's mother, Bessie, would sing hymns in the kitchen and Carolyn still remembers the words she learned by hearing her mother sing.

Carolyn was not welcome at Grandma Kell's house. Was made to sit on the steps and told not to touch the flowers or the dog.

Think Grandpa Jacob fell in the barn and hit his head and eventually died of that skull fracture. Sometimes Carolyn was tied to a tree to keep her from getting into trouble. Grandpa would say "Untie that girl". Her parents were pushed to teach her nothing but work. When Carolyn was 12 Bessie, her mother, had a hernia and Carolyn had to do everything. She said she canned and canned and at fair time she wanted to enter some of her food for exhibit but was not allowed to. She might be in competition with some of the other members of the family. She said it was naughty of her to even laugh. Grandma would pinch her cheeks if she even laughed. Kell

Carolyn was allowed no friends but in high school she chose for her friends some Jewish girls and the only black girl in the school. Carolyn was from the farm so she was as much "scum" as her friends. One of the Jewish girls was Rosa Rothberg whose family owned a furniture store. So one day she went to Rosa's home and her mother was so overjoyed that she would be a friend to Rosa that she threw her arms around Carolyn and gave her a big hug. She was so grateful. Carolyn kept this a secret from her family as to having these girls as her friends. The black girl was adopted by the Sheriff but she died young. Carolyn said racism was very prevalant among the family. Probably to most living in those times. She said she hated it and learned early to appreciate all races and colors.

She said that Belle Hollopeter Fitch had a cousin who had money, a beautiful home, wintered in Florida but was a terrible rascist.

JAKe Kell has a lot of his grandfather in him. Live and let live. And an easy acceptance of things that befall him.

Carolyn said that her Grandma Kell was also very cruel to Bessie. And that the baby of the day, Elizabeth DeBolt was never disciplined so became very spoiled and always had her own way.

Once a bull got Jake down and was hurting him badly and he was saved when (Elsie?) came after the bull with a pitchfork. She was a power-house of a woman.

Carolyn said that her father never said "thank you" or ever held her on his lap that she can remember. But when she started working, he took her first three pay checks so she moved out.

Her father in his older years was kept by both Carolyn and Jake so I would say they would get their reward later. Certainly not in this life as he was cantankerous until the end of his life.

Mathias had begged Bessie not to marry Frederick but to no avail. Gladys Fitch, daughter of Amos, was also in love with him. Maybe she would have been able to handle him and put him in his place, but Bessie was compliant to him. He thought when he married Bessie he would get money but Mathias gave only implements and animals. He did not get money. He said he wanted to be a millionaire. Once he was even known to say when Bessie was sick, that he would never be a millionaire with a sick wife.

Also would not neighbor with anyone. Thought he was better than they were. Actually, he was probably programmed for this in his own childhood. Jacob had three wives and lost 2, one with typhoid and I think the other one died on an accident. When Frederick was born his mother was 44 and his father was 60 years old and they spoiled him rotten.

Frederick was kicked out of school because of his bad behavior and they had him tutored at home some of the time. He had knocked out the teeth of Sol Kell's daughter and would always fight with the boys.

Bessie was really mistreated by her husband and mother-in-law and had little happiness as she was kept from her own family, the Fitchs, most of the time. I have recorded elsewhere how her husband cheated her and the kids out of their inheritance by letting it go for non-payment of taxes. Hate to think what his reward must be for guess he never repented and wanted nothing to do with God. On that we cannot be the judge.

Notes I found about things told by Carolyn Davis. I typed up one set, but this may be different, so will type it up until I can compare it with the other one.

After talking to Carolyn Davis, April 23, 1992, this afternoon, I deceided to write down a few things she told me about her family.

She said her father, Frederick Jacob Kell, 1872-1959, was a strong atheist who was openly against God, preachers, and teachers and used strong language to express his opinions. Carolyn's mother, Bessie Fitch Kell, 1875-1942, would sing hymns and play them on the piano for Carolyn when Frederick was out of the house.

Her sisters, Sarah Elizabeth DeBolt and Mary Ellen Arnold grew up very much like their father and wanted nothing to do with the church or God and still don't at this present time. In fact, Sarah Elizabeth burned all the hymn books eventually (probably after her mother's death) and said "Now we won't have to listen to that anymore". Also at one time Carolyn went to live with her and she said Sarah Elizabeth forbid her to go to church, but she would sneak out and go anyway.

Mary Ellen has had many problems in her life, but apparently never had the Lord to turn to.

Carolyn recalls a time when she was volunteering at the Civic Theatre and was in a performance on a Sunday afternoon. This was at a time when Mary Ellen and Dewey Arnold were keeping him and taking care of their father, Frederick. He apparently got angry and took an axe to the upstairs where he was staying (He never admitted that he did it). Dewey was so angry that he came down the isle at the Civic Theatre and yanked Carolyn right off the stage, telling her that from then on she would have to take care of her father.

Apparently there were many hostile feelings in their family. Dewey was not nice to Carolyn, often calling her bad names. Carolyn did keep her father for either 7 or 9 years. Mary Ellen and Dewey also kept him for a period of time.

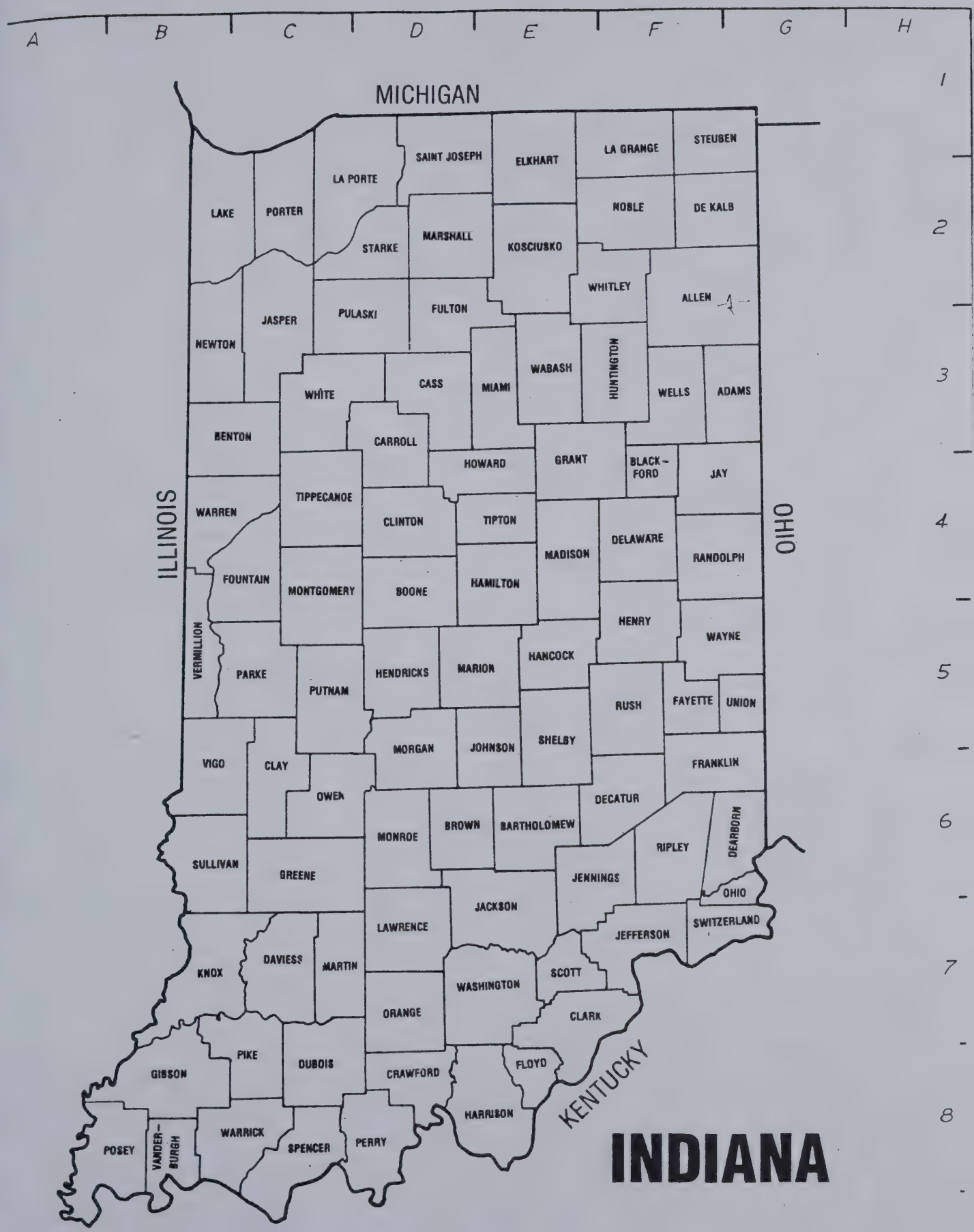
Carolyn has had a busy life. She has volunteered for many things. Civic Theatre, cancer society, church organizations. She has a Methodis background and was the Fitch family historian for a long time. She always had a very sharp mind and it still seems as sharp as ever, and she likes to talk.

Brother Jake, seems more like Carolyn, helpful and interested in people. Carolyn went off to college and was a teacher which her father hated. I would guess that her mother, Bessie, daughter of Mathias and Frances, had a hard life. Carolyn left home.

Mary Ellen was and still is a weaver of rugs and I visited her

home once on the Johnson Road. Have a newspaper article about her and her weaving. I had gone to ask about family history and family artifacts that she might have. She showed me her weaving and loom, but did not seem interested in the family or helping me with the family history project.

After reading the articles printed in the newspaper I may have misunderstood Carolyn when she mentioned teachers because Mary Ellen said that her parents fought for a good school and education for the kids. Will hopefully straighten that out with Carolyn. Perhaps it was just Carolyn's teachers and schooling that he was opposed to.


A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
MICHIGAN
ILLINOIS
OHIO
KENTUCKY
LAKE
PORTER
LA PORTE
SAINT JOSEPH
ELKHART
LA GRANGE
STEUBEN
NOBLE
DE KALB
STARKE
MARSHALL
KOSCIUSKO
WHITLEY
ALLEN
NEWTON
JASPER
PULASKI
FULTON
WABASH
HUNTINGTON
WELLS
ADAMS
WHITE
CASS
MIAMI
BENTON
CARROLL
HOWARD
GRANT
BLACK-FORD
JAY
WARREN
TIPPECANOE
CLINTON
TIPTON
MADISON
DELAWARE
RANDOLPH
FOUNTAIN
MONTGOMERY
BOONE
HAMILTON
HENRY
WAYNE
VERMILLION
PARKE
PUTNAM
HENDRICKS
MARION
HANCOCK
RUSH
FAYETTE
UNION
VIGO
CLAY
OWEN
MORGAN
JOHNSON
SHELBY
FRANKLIN
DECATUR
MONROE
BROWN
BARTHOLOMEW
RIPLEY
DEARBORN
SULLIVAN
GREENE
JENNINGS
OHIO
JACKSON
LAWRENCE
JEFFERSON
SWITZERLAND
KNOX
DAVIESS
MARTIN
WASHINGTON
SCOTT
ORANGE
CLARK
PIKE
DUBOIS
GIBSON
CRAWFORD
FLOYD
HARRISON
POSEY
VANDER-BURGH
WARRICK
SPENCER
PERRY
INDIANA

FITCH CENSUS .. INDIANA .. 1860

Benjamin Fitch		Steuben	
Catherine Fitch		Madison	
Emma Fitch		Steuben	
Nathaniel Fitch	(342)	Allen	Perry
Jane Fitch	(343)	Allen	Perry

CHARLES B. FITCH FT. WAYNE, INSURANCE

1.	Rev. James Fitch	Priscilla Mason
2.	Daniel Fitch	Mary Sherwood (Montville, Trading Cove)
3.	Adonijah Fitch	Sarah Fitch (1st cousin, Jos. & Sarah Mason
4.	Squire Joseph Fitch	Sarah Gardner (Montville)
5.	William Willard Fitch	Leva Nash (Charlemont, MA)
6.	William Willard Fitch Jr	Aurelia Britnall (Medina, Ohio)
7. Charles B. Fitch & 8. Geraldine Fitch 1907		Elizabeth Pryer or Fryer of Avilla, IN

7. Wayne Monroe Fitch
8. Eugene M. Fitch
8. Delmer C. Fitch

Desc. of Rev. James Fitch

CHARLES B. PITCH PE. WAYNE, INSURANCE

1. Rev. James Pitch Priscilla Mason

2. Daniel Pitch Mary Sherwood (Montville, Trading Cove)

3. Adonijah Pitch Sarah Pitch (1st cousin, Dec. 5 Sarah Mann

4. Squire Joseph Pitch Sarah Gardner (Montville)

5. William Willard Pitch Lova Nash (Charlemont, MA)

6. William Willard Pitch Jr Aurelia Brittnell (Medina, Ohio)

7. Charles B. Pitch I Elizabeth Pryer or Fryer of Avilla, IN
8. Geraldine Pitch 1907
B

7. Wayne Monroe Pitch
8. Eugene M. Pitch
8. Delmer C. Pitch

Desc. of Rev. James Pitch

GRANDMA FITCH DIES 1818-1908

The venerable mother of Mrs. Allen Hartzell passed away at Huntertown Wednesday morning. At the last Fitch reunion held two months ago it could be seen that Grandma Fitch could not long survive. Past the age of 90, she had reached the time when any minute might bring the summons. She had always been strong , but age overcomes strength. While sitting in bed receiving attention from members of the family, the aged head bent forward, a sigh escaped the lips and the spirit was gone.

Mrs. Fitch was born in 1818 in Miami County, Ohio. In 1840 she was married to Nathaniel Fitch and they settled in Perry township where she resided ever since. The husband died in 1877. Fourteen children were born to them, twelve of whom still live. She was a member of the M.E. Church at Huntertown and the funeral will be held from that place Friday. Rev. E. A. Bunner will conduct the service/ She was a good woman, universally loved. Her passing away was in compliance with the law of nature, but the influence of Christian spirit will live eternally.

The surviving children are Mathias Fitch of Huntertown, Mrs. J. F. Beers, of Holly, Colorado, Charles and Allen Fitch of St. Paul, Amos Fitch of New Era, Indiana, Mrs. Christian Fair of Alden, Kansas, Mrs. A. M. Hartzell of New Haven, Harvey Fitch of Huntertown, Dr. David Fitch of Auburn, Mrs. Dr. M. A. Mason, Mrs. J. D. Gloyd and Mrs. Sarah E. Stratton of Fort Wayne. There are 46 grand children and 27 great-grandchildren.